

Iowa

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OF THE SURVEYED PART
OF
IOWA TERRITORY,

FROM THE OFFICIAL PLATS;

Defining all the Townships & Counties; and being the
only Map yet published, exhibiting the location

OF
IOWA CITY

the permanent Seat of Government of the Territory,
as established by the Commissioners 4th May, 1839.

St Louis compiled and published by

John C. Plumber

of Sinipee Wisconsin.

TRACED WITHOUT ALTERATIONS
(EXCEPT TO ENLARGE THE SMALLER
LETTERING) 1925 BY

Morris Fahr

Scale 9 miles to an inch

Lith. of E. Dupré St. Louis Mo.



PREFACE¹

THE following pages are presented to the public in the hope that, imperfect as in many respects they are, they may still be the means of effecting some good, by assisting in directing the attention of Emigrants and others, to a portion of the United States, which all, who have examined it, unite in representing—to use the words of a distinguished English traveller—as “one of the finest domains that nature ever offered to man.”

So superior are its attractions, that those who have never seen them, will probably be inclined to doubt the correctness of their faithful delineation.

Under this impression, the writer, to corroborate the views which a continuous residence upon the spot, since 1836, has enabled him to form—has taken the liberty of availing himself, freely, of the interesting testimony of many other eye witnesses; the combined weight of which, it is hoped, will prove sufficient to satisfy even the most sceptical, that Iowa and Wisconsin are, at least, worth *visiting*.

The *second part* of these “Sketches,” (embracing Wisconsin) being in a state of forwardness, is intended to appear with as little delay as possible.

SINQUEE, WISCONSIN, MAY, 1839.

IOWA.

THE TERRITORY OF IOWA, considered in reference to that portion of it to which the Indian title has become extinct, is embraced between 40 deg. 20 min., and 43 deg. north latitude, being bounded by the State of Missouri on the south, and the Mississippi river on the east. The limits of the Territory, on the north and west, extend much farther than those of the district now subject to occupation by settlers; the length of which, at present, is about two hundred miles, by fifty in breadth; equivalent to ten thousand square miles, or nearly six and a half millions of acres. This has been purchased from the Sauk and Fox Indians, at three different treaties; the first in 1832, the next in 1836, and the last in 1838.

The Territory takes its name from that of one of its beautiful rivers, which runs entirely across the present purchase. Permission to settle in Iowa was first granted to the white man on the first of June, 1833. The unparalleled rapidity with which the torrent of immigration has since poured into this Western Paradise, may be inferred from the official returns of the census taken in May, 1838; according to which, it appears the population had increased, within less than five years, from

¹We have followed the capitalization, spelling, punctuation, etc., as they are in the original “Sketches.”—Editor.

nothing, to 22,859! and the ratio seems to continue to advance in geometrical progression, from the fact that the uniformly flattering report of each successive new comer, induces a number—more or less—of his friends and acquaintances to follow. Up to 1836, the present State of Michigan, and the two Territories of Wisconsin and Iowa, were all embraced under the comprehensive name of the Territory of Michigan. Since then, mark the unprecedented strides in advancement, made by this comparatively unknown and unappreciated region! In 1836, the present State of Michigan was admitted into the Union. On the fourth day of July, 1836, the Territory of Wisconsin was organized, embracing within its limits the present Territory of Iowa: and on the fourth day of July, 1838, the increase of population had become so great, that Wisconsin was divided, (by the line of the Mississippi river,) and the Territory of Iowa organized.

This blooming belle of the American family, though only yet in the first year of her independent territorial existence, doubtless contains within her boundary, a white population not over estimated at thirty thousand souls!

The editor of the New-Orleans Bee, in referring to Wisconsin and Iowa, remarks:

"Both these infant sections of our country, in the greater part of their extent, are among the most fertile portions of our vast domain. They abound with mineral resources of great value, are irrigated by numerous navigable streams, and are supplied with every facility for converting their mineral and agricultural productions into the most convenient and profitable marketable form. They are divided into prairies and woodland, so as almost wholly to dispense with the labor of *clearing*, which was and still continues to be so material a draw-back upon most of the Western States. At the same time a sufficient quantity of timber is afforded for every purpose for which it may be required. The face of the country is high and undulating, with but little barren or broken lands, except in the mining regions, and the scenery is extremely picturesque and romantic. The portion of Wisconsin lying north of the river of the same name, is nearly covered with a dense forest of white pine, and is abundantly supplied with water privileges by which this valuable timber may be prepared for transportation or home consumption, with the utmost ease and cheapness. The climate of this extensive region is perhaps as propitious to health as that of any country in the world. Its remoteness from the ocean secures it from those insalubrious winds which bring with them such a host of pulmonary disorders on the northern seaboard, while its high and dry soil, and pure atmosphere, preserve it from the fatal fevers to which the flatter surface and more fervid sun of the lower Mississippi often subject the denizens of the South.

Another vast portion of our country is proffered to the enterprize and industry of her sons, and how speedily they will avail themselves of its advantages, may be inferred from the inducements presented, and

the progress which has been made in less promising territories. The great extent, and immense and varied resources of our country, and the rapidity with which the one is occupied and the other developed, under the life-giving impulses of our liberal institutions, are objects of continual wonder, as well as of pride and gratulation, and impel us to rejoice in these unceasing accessions to our national prosperity, dominion and glory."

Lieut. Albert M. Lea, U. S. A. in speaking of Iowa, says:

"The climate is such as would be naturally expected in this latitude. The thermometer does not range more widely here than in similar latitudes east of the Allegheny Mountains, nor, perhaps, as much so, as in those districts beyond the influence of the sea-breeze; for here, we have every day a breeze, from some quarter of our broad prairies, almost as refreshing as that from the ocean.—We are exempt, too, from the effects of the easterly winds, so chilling and so annoying along the Atlantic sea-board. The prevailing winds are from the southwest. I have known the wind at Rock Island to remain constant in that quarter for three weeks successively, and it is said to have so remained during six weeks at Prairie du Chien.

As we ascend the river, (Mississippi,) the causes of disease diminish, and the atmosphere becomes purer, and when we arrive at the rapids at Rock Island, we enter upon a country as healthy as the Allegheny Mountains. There are some diseases, common in other parts of the United States, not known here; and pulmonary consumption is one of them.

The Winter is generally dry, cold and bracing; the waters are all bridged with ice; the snow is frequently deep enough to afford good sleighing; and it is considered the best season for traveling. The winter usually commences about the first of December, and ends early in March, though we often have fine, pleasant weather in mid-winter. There is never so much snow, even as far north as Prairie du Chien, as to interrupt the traveling; and, as every prairie is a high road, we scarcely feel the occlusion of the icy season.

The Summer is generally of sufficient warmth to produce rapid vegetation, and yet it is seldom oppressively hot. I have, in fact, ridden through grass six feet high, in the month of July, when, for weeks together, I scarcely experienced the sensation of excessive heat. During this season, the appearance of the country is gay and beautiful, being clothed in grass, foliage and flowers.

Of all the seasons in the year, *the Autumn* is the most delightful. The heat of the summer is over by the middle of August; and, from that time till December, we have almost one continuous succession of bright, clear, delightful sunny days. Nothing can exceed the beauty of summer and autumn in this country, where, on one hand, we have the expansive prairie, strewed with flowers still growing, and, on the

other, the forests which skirt it, presenting all the varieties of color incident to the fading foliage of a thousand different trees.

The general appearance of the country is one of great beauty. It may be represented as one grand rolling prairie, along one side of which flows the mightiest river in the world, and through which numerous navigable streams pursue their devious way towards the ocean. In every part of this whole district, beautiful rivers and creeks are to be found, whose transparent waters are perpetually renewed by the springs from which they flow. Many of these streams are connected with lakes; and hence their supply of water is remarkably uniform throughout the seasons. All these rivers, creeks and lakes are skirted by woods, often several miles in width, affording shelter from intense cold or heat to the animals that may there take refuge from the contiguous prairies. These woods also afford the timber necessary for building houses, fences and boats.

Though probably three fourths of the Territory is without trees, yet so conveniently and admirably are the water and the woods distributed throughout, that nature appears to have made an effort to arrange them in the most desirable manner possible.

Where there is no water, isolated groves are frequently found to break the monotony of the prairie, or to afford the necessary timber for the enclosure of the farmer. No part of the Territory is probably more than three miles from good timber; and hence it is scarcely any where necessary to build beyond the limits of the woods, to be convenient to farming lands the most distant from them, as the trouble of hauling the timber necessary for farming purposes, a distance of one, two or three miles, is trifling.

Taking this Territory all in all, for convenience of navigation, water, fuel and timber; for richness of soil; for beauty of appearance; and for pleasantness of climate, it surpasses any portion of the United States with which I am acquainted.

Could I present to the mind of the reader that view of the country that is now before my eyes, he would not deem my assertion unfounded. He would see the broad Mississippi, with its ten thousand islands, flowing gently and lingeringly along one entire side of this Territory, as if in regret at leaving so delightful a region; he would see half a dozen navigable rivers taking their sources in distant regions, and gradually accumulating their waters as they glide steadily along through this favored region to pay their tribute to the great "Father of Waters;" he would see innumerable creeks and rivulets meandering through rich pastures, where now the domestic ox has taken the place of the untamed bison; he would see here and there neat groves of oak, and elm, and walnut, half shading, half concealing beautiful little lakes, that mirror back their waving branches; he would see neat looking prairies of two or three miles in extent, and apparently enclosed by woods on all sides, and along the borders of which are ranged the neat hewed log cabins of the emigrants, with their fields stretching far into the prairies, where

their herds are luxuriating on the native grass; he would see villages springing up, as by magic, along the banks of the rivers, and even far into the interior; and he would see the swift-moving steam-boats, as they ply up and down the Mississippi, to supply the wants of the settlers, to take away their surplus produce, or to bring an accession to this growing population, anxious to participate in the enjoyment of nature's bounties, here so liberally dispensed.

The Products of this district are chiefly mineral and agricultural, though manufactures will undoubtedly take their place in due time.

Bituminous coal, the oxides and the sulphurets of iron, limestone and sandstone, and fire-clay, are found in numerous places, and some of these minerals occur in great abundance. But the chief mineral wealth of this region consists in its Lead Mines. The finest mines in the United States are those near Du Buque, in the northern part of the district. The galena has been found throughout an extensive tract; and I have little doubt that it will be found extending entirely across the district, (Territory) running in a south-west direction, towards the mines of Missouri.

The agricultural productions consist chiefly of maize, wheat, rye, oats and potatoes. The large white corn of the south may be produced as far north as Rock Island, and yields from fifty to one hundred bushels per acre—but the yellow flint corn grows well any where, and yields from forty to seventy-five bushels per acre;—the latter is the more certain crop. Wheat is produced with a facility unknown except in the west. I have known the sod of the prairie to be simply turned over, the seed harrowed in, and thirty bushels to be harvested. But the usual crop, after the first, is from twenty-five to forty bushels per acre, with negligent farming. Oats yield usually from sixty to seventy bushels per acre, and seventy-five bushels have been cut at Du Buque. Potatoes grow abundantly, and are famous throughout the west for their fine quality.

The growing of stock of various kinds will doubtless be extensively pursued, as few countries afford more facilities for such purposes; and in consequence of the abundance of excellent timber along the smaller rivers and creeks, those towns on the Mississippi, even as low down as Saint Louis, will probably in a great measure be supplied with that article from the forests of Iowa. Already numerous mills have been put in operation.

The larger *Game* will, of course, soon disappear from the settlements, but at present there is a great deal of deer, some bear, and some buffalo within reach. Turkeys, grouse and ducks will long be abundant; and of *Fish* there can never be any scarcity. Every stream is filled with them; and among them may be found the pike, the pickerel, the catfish, the trout, and many other varieties. Immense quantities are taken about the several rapids, where they may be easily speared.

Large portions of the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky and

Missouri seem to be about to emigrate to this region. There are now here emigrants from all these States, and every other State in the Union, as well as many foreigners. Whole neighborhoods are moving from Indiana and Illinois to this land of promise.

The character of this population is such as is rarely to be found in our newly acquired Territories. With very few exceptions, there is not a more orderly, industrious, active, pains-taking population west of the Alleghenies, than is this of the Iowa District. Those who have been accustomed to associate the name of *Squatter* with the idea of recklessness and idleness, would be quite surprised to see the systematic manner in which every thing is here conducted. For intelligence, I boldly assert that they are not surpassed, as a body, by any equal number of citizens of any country in the world. It is matter of surprise that, about the mining region, there should be so little of the recklessness that is usual in that sort of life. Here is a mixed mass of English, French, German, Irish, Scotch, and citizens of every part of the United States, each steadily pursuing his own business, without interrupting his neighbor. This regularity and propriety is to be attributed to the preponderance of well-informed and well-intentioned gentlemen among them, as well as to the disposition of the mass of the people. It is but within a few years past that persons of high and cultivated character have emigrated, in great numbers, to our frontiers. Formerly, it was, with some notable exceptions, the reckless in character, the desperate in fortune, or the bold hunter, that sought concealment, wealth or game, in the "wilds of the west." Now, it is the virtuous, the intelligent, and the wealthy, that seek, in the favored and flowery regions *beyond these "wilds,"* a congenial abode for themselves and their posterity.

This District, being north of the State of Missouri, is forever free from the institution of slavery, according to the compact made on the admission of that State into the Union. So far as the political wealth and strength of the country is considered, this is a very great advantage, for the region is too far north for negroes to be profitable. Besides, all experience teaches us that, *caeteris paribus*, free States grow far more rapidly than slave States. Compare, for example, the States of Ohio and Kentucky—and what would not Missouri have now been, had she never admitted slavery within her borders?

On the west and north of the district, are the Sauk and Fox, and the Sioux tribes of Indians. These people have become so much reduced in number, and are so perfectly convinced of their utter inferiority, that they will never have an idea of again making war upon our settlements. Their proximity will indeed be rather an advantage to the district (Territory) than otherwise, as a profitable trade may be carried on with them.

The Trade of this district is confined almost entirely to the grand thorough-fare of the Mississippi. By it, the produce of the mines is carried away, and all the wants of a new population are supplied.

Saint Louis is the port through which all the exchanges are at present effected, though the town of Alton, on the east side of the Mississippi, just above the mouth of Missouri river, is now setting up a rivalry for this trade. The only important article of export, as yet, is lead; the amount of which is not correctly ascertained, even for one year; and, as it is daily increasing, and capable of indefinite extension, it is enough to say that it is a profitable—a very profitable—source of trade.

The town of Quincy, forty miles below the mouth of the Des Moines, derives its supply of coal from that river, and it is almost certain that a large trade will be carried on in that article, as the demand for it increases.

All kinds of agricultural products have heretofore found ready consumers in the increasing population of every neighborhood; and this cause will continue to afford a market at every man's door for years to come.—After the emigration shall have abated, the mines will afford always a ready market for whatever can be produced within reach of them. But should this market fail, there are numerous navigable rivers intersecting the district, and leading into the broad Mississippi, an ample highway to any part of the world. There are ten or twelve steamboats continually plying between Saint Louis and the various ports on the Upper Mississippi, as far up as the Falls of St. Anthony. The usual trip is from St. Louis to the lead mines, a distance of four hundred and fifty miles, to make which, requires about three days, and an equal time to load and return. This would give an average of more than a boat daily each way, after making allowance for the casualties of trade. But whilst I am now writing, this thing is all changing; for such is the rapidity of growth of this country, and such is the facility with which these people accommodate the wants of the public, that I would not be surprised to find the number of boats doubled within the current year.

The Mississippi is, and must continue to be, the main avenue of trade for this country; but there is a reasonable prospect of our having a more direct and speedy communication with our brethren of the east. New York is now pushing her rail road from the Hudson to Lake Erie, where it will be met by another from Pennsylvania; thence the united rail road will be continued around the southern shore of Lake Erie, and cross the States of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois to the Mississippi, touching upon the southern end of Lake Michigan in its route, and receiving the tribute of the various local works which it will intersect. This work would place the centre of the Iowa district within sixty hours of the city of New York; and if any of the "down-easters" think this project chimerical, let them take a tour of a few weeks to the Upper Mississippi, and they will agree with me, that it is already demanded by the interests of the country.

By casting an eye on the map, it will be seen that some of the most beautiful country in the world is lying immediately along this district on the west side. From this country, the Indians are now moving over

to the Des Moines; and finding the country on the Wabesapinica, the Iowa, the Bison and Chacagua rivers of no use to them, they are already anxious to sell; and the press of population along the border has already created a demand for its purchase. A short time, then, will cause the western boundary of the district to be extended; and with this extension, will come a corresponding increase of population. It is hazardous little to say, that this district will have population sufficient to entitle it to a place among the States of the Union by the time that the census of 1840 shall have been completed.

The Mississippi River washes one half of the entire circumference of the district, no part of which, from its peculiar shape, is more than fifty miles from the river. In a country so open as this, where no artificial roads are necessary, this common contiguity to such a river as the Mississippi, places every part of it within convenient reach of the balance of the world.

The Mississippi is continually navigable, except when occluded by ice, by steam-boats drawing three feet water, as far up as Prairie du Chien; and frequently they run up to the Falls of Saint Anthony, a distance of 800 miles above Saint Louis. The river is generally from three quarters of a mile, to one mile in width, and is filled with islands of every size. From the flatness of the general bed of the river, the *channel* runs frequently from one shore to another, rendering the navigation intricate at low water; but there is perhaps not a stream in the world more beautiful, in itself, or naturally more free from dangerous obstructions, than is the Upper Mississippi.

The general character of this part of the river, is very different from that below the mouth of the Missouri.—Here, the water is limpid, the current is gentle, and the banks are permanent; there, the water is muddy, the current impetuous, and the banks are continually changing.

The annual freshets in this part of the river, do not usually rise more than ten feet above low water mark; and in this feature, it has greatly the advantage of the Ohio, with which it is often compared. Even in the highest freshets, the color of its water remains unchanged and its current easy; and there is about the whole river, a calmness, a purity, and a peacefulness of expression, perfectly enchanting.

Rocky cliffs sometimes present themselves along the shore, either surmounted with forest trees, or covered with a rich coating of prairie grass; and sometimes, the highlands slope down to the water's edge, covered with waving grass, and clusters of trees, grouped here and there, or set about at intervals, presenting an orchard-like appearance. From the vicinity of Rock Island upward, to the highlands above Prairie du Chien, the beautiful sloping shores, just mentioned, are almost continuous. Those who have seen this part of the country, need no description of it; and those who have not seen it, would think me painting from imagination, were I to describe it true to the life.

* * * * *

Iowa River. It is the largest tributary of the Mississippi above the Illinois, and probably affords more water than that river. It takes its rise among the innumerable lakes in the high flat country which divides the waters which run north-west into the Saint Peter's river, from those which run south-east into the Mississippi. This high country is a continuation of that which, being intersected by the action of the current, overhangs the Mississippi below Lake Pepin, and is there called "The Highlands." Having its source in these lakes, the river is perennially supplied with pure and limpid water, and as it meanders its way for 300 miles to the Father of Waters, receiving large tributary streams, as it moves along through rich meadows, deep forests, projecting cliffs, and sloping landscapes, it presents to the imagination, the finest picture on earth, of a country prepared by Providence, for the habitation of man. I can say nothing of that part of it above the district line, except that tourists report the country along it, as well as all that between the Des Moines and Mississippi, as exceedingly beautiful and fertile. Major Gordon, who passed through it in August, 1835, and who has traveled extensively, says that "In point of beauty and fertility, it is unsurpassed by any portion of the United States."

It is believed, that the main river can be easily navigated, during three or four months of the year, by steam boats of light draught, as far up as some rapids near Poiskeik's village, a distance of 100 miles. This obstruction once passed, boats will run with ease, about 100 miles farther, to the mouth of Shell-Rock river, near the Neutral Grounds.

The bottoms along the river, are usually prairie, and somewhat inclined to be sandy; but they are said to be admirably adapted to the growing of maize.

The uplands are rich and dry. Extensive forests skirt the river and all its tributaries; fine springs are abundant; the smaller creeks afford good mill sites; and there appears to be little left to be desired. From the Pine up to the Wabesapinica, (rivers,) there are numerous creeks that empty into the Mississippi; some of them afford good water power; all of them have more or less timber along them; and as they rise far back in the prairie, and interlock with others running into the Iowa and Wabesapinica, there is no part of the large and fertile tract, lying between these three rivers, that is not conveniently supplied with timber. It is from the mouth of Pine river upward, that the beautiful country of the Mississippi begins to show itself.

Great Mequoquetois. This stream may be considered as the southern boundary of the mineral lands. I have a specimen of the ore of copper from this river, supposed to be valuable; and it is asserted that a very large body of it has been found, some days march up the river. * *

Penaca, or Turkey River. The finest soil and the finest timber are to be found on this river, of all that lie within the mining region. For agricultural purposes alone, it is highly desirable; but if the mineral wealth beneath the soil be considered, it is not wonderful that crowds of emigrants should be hastening to it, as they now are.

This stream and its tributaries traverse the northwestern part of the region heretofore ascertained to afford galena; but from observations made by myself and others, as far north as Wabashaw's village, I have no doubt that this mineral will be found to extend over a portion of the Territory vastly larger than has heretofore been supposed.

* * * * *

Iowa. This is the name of a town laid out at the mouth of Pine river, about 330 miles above Saint Louis.

From its situation at the apex of a great bend in the Mississippi, it is central to a large district of country; and the near approach of the Iowa river just back of it, brings all the settlements along a great part of that stream, within a short distance of this place. It possesses the most convenient landing from Burlington to the head of the Upper Rapids; and no place could be better adapted to the erection of buildings. The harbor of Pine river runs through the town, affording good lands on both sides, and boats may land anywhere on the Mississippi shore, for a mile and a half above the mouth of Pine. This will be the point of deposit for the trade of the country included between the Iowa, Wabesapinica and Mississippi; and for the disembarkation of emigrants going to that region. But a simple inspection of the map is sufficient to show its general advantages of position. Its local conveniences are, its landing, its harbor, its fine sloping grounds, its good water, its water power, its timber, and its building stone. There are some of the most beautiful sites for private residences, between this and Rock Island, that can be desired. Nature here, has made her finest display of gay and cheerful beauty.

Davenport. This is a town just laid out on a Reserve, belonging to Antoine Leclair. It is nearly opposite to the lower end of Rock Island, about 350 miles by water, above Saint Louis, and is situated on high ground, with a beautiful range of sloping hills running in the rear of it. The town of Stephenson, the mouth of Rock River, the picturesque works on Rock Island, and Leclair's house and plantation, are all within full view of this point. Its situation is certainly delightful, so far as beauty and health are concerned. Its position, near the foot of the Rapids, will cause it to be resorted to as a place of shipment, both for persons and freight. Water power, building stone, and bituminous coal are convenient, and abundance of excellent timber is to be found on the hills and creeks of the vicinity. The town has been laid out on a liberal scale, with a view to its becoming a large city.

Parkhurst. Of this place, it is sufficient to say, that the site is beautiful, the landing good, building material convenient, and the back country fine. Its position at the head of the Rapids will throw a little more trade and storage there, than it would otherwise have. A good deal of the trade of the Wabesapinica will find a port at Parkhurst; and many persons, emigrating from Illinois and the Lakes, will pass by this route.

Riprow. Here are mines along the sloping hill side; where, as you sweep along the Mississippi on the noisy steamer, you may see the hardy miners, as they tear the lead from the bowels of the earth. The landing is good, and fuel and building materials are convenient.

Du Buque. This is the centre of the mining region of the Iowa District. The operations in these mines were commenced in the year 1832, when the country was still in the possession of the Indians; and in 1833, after the acquisition of the District by the United States, the town was laid out, and permanently settled. It contained in the autumn of 1835, about twenty-five dry-good stores, numerous groceries, four taverns, a court-house, a jail, and three churches. One of these, the Catholic, is a beautiful building. Ten steamboats, which run between this and St. Louis, are partly owned here. The site of the town is very handsome, and building materials and fuel are convenient. The surrounding country is *as fertile in grain and grass, as productive in mineral!* In the autumn of 1835, the population was about 1,200, and was rapidly increasing. The people of this town are excessively active and enterprising, carrying on an extensive trade in the products of their mines, and in supplying the miners with the necessities and comforts of life. Every thing here is in a flourishing condition, for all labor is well paid.

As the lands yet belong to the U. States, and no regulations have been made, in relation to the working of the mines, they are subject to the occupation of any one who may think proper to take possession. New deposits are discovered daily, and there are doubtless others yet to be found as rich as any already explored. The miners here pay no tribute, as they do at the mines about Galena, nor will they be called on to do so, until the country shall be surveyed and brought into market; and in the mean time, the settler may make money enough to pay for many quarter sections of land. The smelting establishments have recently been much improved, and are now conducted with scientific accuracy, yielding seventy or eighty per cent. of lead from the native sulphuret.

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Roads. The natural surface of the ground is the only road yet to be found in Iowa District; (Territory,) and such is the nature of the soil, that in dry weather we need no other. The country being so very open and free from mountains, artificial roads are little required. A few trees taken out of the way, where the routes much traveled traverse the narrow woods, and a few bridges thrown over the deeper creeks, is all the work necessary to give good roads in any direction.

* * * * *

It may appear to some, unacquainted with the character of our western people, and not apprised of the rapid growth of this country, that some of my descriptions and predictions are fanciful; but if there be error in them, it is rather that the truth is not fully expressed than that it is transcended."

The preceding extracts, which I have taken the liberty of so freely appropriating, are from Lieut. A. M. LEA's very interesting and well written "Notes on Wisconsin," published in 1836, and prior to the *organization* of not only Iowa, but Wisconsin Territory.

His graphic and flattering descriptions, may doubtless, as he himself observes, "appear fanciful" to some; but an examination of the country is all that is necessary to convince the most sceptical of their reality.

The following letter from the Hon. GEORGE W. JONES, Delegate in Congress from the Territory of Wisconsin, to the author of the "Notes," is introduced for the additional satisfaction of the possibly dubious reader.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
WASHINGTON CITY, APRIL 26, 1836. }

LIEUT. A. M. LEA,

My dear Sir:

The perusal of your "Notes on the Iowa District of Wisconsin Territory," which you had the kindness to lend me, has afforded me much pleasure, and I cannot but offer you, at least, my thanks for the favor.

Your account of the country is certainly interesting and candid, as I was confident it would be, when I heard that you were writing on the subject, from the fact of your having explored the country in person, from your liberal and just views of the "far north-west," and from the ample means you have had of obtaining information.

The country which you have described, is undoubtedly not surpassed as a farming and mining country, by any in the known world; and the manner in which you have set forth its advantages, must ensure to your book an extensive circulation. The numerous applicants that have come to me from the east, the south, and the west, for information in relation to this country, I take pleasure in referring to your Notes, with the hope that you will very soon publish them to the world.

You have said much for the country, but I do not believe that you could have said too much in commendation of its fertility and natural resources.

I am, with very great regard,

Your obliged humble servant,

GEO. W. JONES.

of Sinsinawa Mound, Wisconsin Territory.

The following, from the talented pen of Judge Hall, contains a striking picture of the Prairies of Iowa and Wisconsin. His remarks as to the cause of the erroneous opinion entertained of the character of the "Far West," by most of those who have not visited it, are very correct, and should be particularly noticed: for such is the influence of early associations, in warping and prejudicing the judgment, that, although every individual of ordinary intelligence in the Atlantic States,

cannot but have some vague ideas of the difference between the nature of that country and this;—yet, nothing, short of ocular demonstration, can prove sufficient to remove the general, and very natural impression, that the farther we recede from the sea board, the more must we expect to encounter the hardships and privations of the *wilderness*.

To a certain *point*, this view is correct; but it is subject as much to qualification as would be the assertion, that the circumnavigator of the globe, the farther he sailed, the farther he got from home! The point referred to, is undoubtedly *east* of Wisconsin and Iowa. Judge Hall says:

"I apprehend that the intense astonishment with which the American pioneers first beheld a prairie, and which *we all* feel in gazing over these singularly beautiful plains, is the result of association. The adventurers who preceded us, from the champaign districts of France, have left no record of any such surprise; on the contrary, they discovered in these flowery meadows something that reminded them of home; and their sprightly imaginations at once suggested that nothing was wanting but the vineyard, the peasant's cottage, and the stately chateau, to render the resemblance complete. But our immediate ancestors came from lands covered with wood, and in their minds the idea of a wilderness was indissolubly connected with that of a forest. They had settled in the woods upon the shores of the Atlantic; and there their ideas of a new country had been formed. As they proceeded to the west, they found the shadows of the heavy foliage deepening upon their path, and the luxuriant forest becoming at every step more stately and intense, confirming the impression that as they receded from civilization, the woodland must continue to accumulate the gloom of its savage and silent grandeur around them—until suddenly the glories of the prairie burst upon their enraptured gaze, with its widely extended landscape, its verdure, its flowers, its picturesque groves, and all its exquisite variety of mellow shade and sunny light.

The scenery of the prairie country is striking, and never fails to cause an exclamation of surprise. The extent of the prospect is exhilarating. The outline of the landscape is sloping and graceful. The verdure and the flowers are beautiful; and the absence of shade, and consequent appearance of a profusion of light, produce a gaiety which animates the beholder.

It is necessary to explain, that these plains, although preserving a general level in respect to the whole country, are yet in themselves not *flat*, but exhibit a gracefully waving surface, swelling and sinking with an easy slope, and a full, rounded outline, equally avoiding the unmeaning horizontal surface, and the interruption of abrupt and angular elevations. It is that surface which, in the expressive language of the country, is called *rolling*, and which has been said to resemble the long, heavy swell of the ocean, when its waves are subsiding to rest after the agitation of a storm.

It is to be remarked, also, that the prairie is almost always elevated in the centre, so that in advancing into it, from either side, you see before you only the plain, with its curved outline marked upon the sky, and forming the horizon; but on reaching the highest point, you look around upon the whole of the vast scene.

The attraction of the prairie consists in its extent, its carpet of verdure and flowers, its undulating surface, its groves, and the fringe of timber by which it is surrounded. Of all these, the latter is the most expressive feature—it is that which gives character to the landscape, which imparts the shape, and marks the boundary of the plain. If the prairie be small, its greatest beauty consists in the vicinity of the surrounding margin of woodland, which resembles the shore of a lake, indented with deep vistas, like bays and inlets, and throwing out long points, like capes and headlands; while occasionally these points approach so close on either hand, that the traveller passes through a narrow avenue or strait, where the shadows of the woodland fall upon his path,—and then again emerges into another prairie. Where the plain is large, the forest outline is seen in the far perspective, like the dim shore when beheld at a distance from the ocean. The eye sometimes roams over the green meadow, without discovering a tree, a shrub, or any object in the immense expanse, but the wilderness of grass and flowers; while, at another time, the prospect is enlivened by the groves, which are seen interspersed like islands, or the solitary tree, which stands alone in the blooming desert.

If it be in the spring of the year, and the young grass has just covered the ground with a carpet of elegant green, and especially if the sun is rising from behind a distant swell of the plain, and glittering upon the dewdrops, no scene can be more lovely to the eye. The deer is seen grazing quietly upon the plain; the bee is on the wing; the wolf, with his tail drooped, is sneaking away to his covert, with the felon tread of one who is conscious that he has disturbed the peace of nature; and the grouse, feeding in flocks or in pairs, like the domestic fowl, cover the whole surface—the males strutting and erecting their plumage like the peacock, and uttering a long, loud mournful note, something like the cooing of the dove, but resembling still more the sound produced by passing a rough finger boldly over the surface of a tambourine. The number of these birds is astonishing. The plain is covered with them in every direction; and when they have been driven from the ground by a deep snow, I have seen thousands, or more properly tens of thousands—thickly clustered in the tops of the trees surrounding the prairie. They do not retire as the country becomes settled, but continue to lurk in the tall grass around the newly made farms; and I have sometimes seen them mingled with the domestic fowls, at a short distance from the farmer's door. They will eat, and even thrive, when confined in a coop, and may undoubtedly be domesticated.

When the eye roves off from the green plain to the groves or points of timber, these also are found to be at this season robed in the most

attractive hues. The rich undergrowth is in full bloom. The red-bud, the dog-wood, the crab-apple, the wild plum, the cherry, the wild rose, are abundant in all the rich plains; and the grapevine, though its blossom is unseen, fills the air with fragrance. The variety of the wild fruit and flowering shrubs is so great, and such the profusion of the blossoms with which they are bowed down, that the eye is regaled almost to satiety.

The gayety of the prairie, its embellishments, and the absence of the gloom and savage wildness of the forest, all contribute to dispel the feeling of lonesomeness which usually creeps over the mind of the solitary traveller in the wilderness. Though he may not see a house, nor a human being, and is conscious that he is far from the habitations of men, he can scarcely divest himself of the idea that he is traveling through scenes embellished by the hand of art. The flowers, so fragile, so delicate, and so ornamental, seem to have been tastefully disposed to adorn the scene. The groves and clumps of trees appear to have been scattered over the lawn to beautify the landscape, and it is not easy to avoid that illusion of the fancy which persuades the beholder that such scenery has been created to gratify the refined taste of civilized man. Europeans are often reminded of the resemblance of this scenery to that of the extensive parks of noblemen, which they have been accustomed to admire, in the old world; the lawn, the avenue, the grove, the copse, which are there produced by art, are here prepared by nature; a splendid specimen of massy architecture, and the distant view of villages, are alone wanting to render the similitude complete.

In the summer, the prairie is covered with long coarse grass, which soon assumes a golden hue, and waves in the wind like a ripe harvest.

The first coat of grass is mingled with small flowers; the violet, the bloom of the strawberry, and others of the most minute and delicate texture. As the grass increases in size, these disappear, and others, taller and more gaudy, display their brilliant colors upon the green surface, and still later, a larger and coarser succession rises with the rising tide of verdure. A fanciful writer asserts that the prevalent color of the prairie flowers is, in the spring a bluish purple, in mid-summer red, and in the autumn yellow. This is one of the *notions* that people get, who study nature by the fireside. The truth is, that the whole of the surface of these beautiful plains, is clad throughout the season of verdure, with every imaginable variety of color, "from grave to gay." It is impossible to conceive a more infinite diversity, or a richer profusion of hues, or to detect any predominating tint, except the green, which forms the beautiful ground, and relieves the exquisite brilliancy of all the others. The only changes of color observed at the different seasons, arise from the circumstances, that in the spring the flowers are small, and the colors delicate; as the heat becomes more ardent, a hardier race, appears, the flowers attain a greater size, and the hue deepens; and still later a succession of coarser plants rises above the tall grass, throwing out larger and gaudier flowers. As the

season advances from spring to midsummer, the individual flower becomes less beautiful when closely inspected, but the landscape is far more variegated, rich, and glowing.

By those who have never seen this region, a very tolerable idea may be formed of the manner in which the prairie and forest alternate, and the proportions of each, by drawing a colored line of irregular breadth, along the edges of all the water courses laid down in the map.—The border thus shaded, which would represent the woodland, would vary in width from one, to five or six miles, and would sometimes extend to twelve. As the streams approach each other, these borders would approximate, or come into contact; and all the intermediate spaces, not thus colored, would be prairie. It is true, therefore, as a general rule, in relation to the States in which the prairies are situated, that wherever there is a considerable tract of surface, not intersected by water courses, it is level and destitute of timber; but in the vicinity of springs and streams, the country is clothed in forest."

"It is an ill wind that blows nobody good." The recent troubles in Canada, induced many of the peaceably inclined and intelligent residents of the Provinces, to look out for a spot where they could enjoy life with less interruption. Accordingly an association has been formed, styled the "Mississippi Emigration Company;" said to contain upwards of fifty thousand members. They appointed a delegation to visit Iowa: and the "Toronto (Upper Canada) Mirror," thus refers to the subject.

"The Iowa Delegation went on a special mission to *"the far West,"* and have returned after the accomplishment of the design for which they had been sent. They found a country on the west side of the Mississippi, which for beauty and fertility, surpassed all their expectations—a country consisting chiefly of high rolling prairie—which implies an elevated country, with an undulating surface—easily cultivated—a country abounding with navigable rivers running far into the interior, and interspersed with numbers of tributaries, affording abundance of mill power, while in almost every part of the country there existed an abundance of the finest springs of the purest water; a country, which not only from its natural features might at once be inferred to be salubrious, but which *the uniform testimony of the settlers from "THE GREAT RIVER"* to the remote interior, pronounced to be so; a country, the character of whose inhabitants so far from being *"licentious, poor and miserable,"* would bear a comparison with, and would stand higher in the scale of intelligence and morals, than would the same class in Upper Canada. The Eastern and middle States, of which the population of Iowa chiefly consists, have never produced a race of young men that will be poor and miserable in a country presenting every incitement to sobriety, to industry, and to enterprise, and which affords a much larger reward to the cultivator of the soil, than any of the older States or the Canadas."

The report of the Delegates, (which is here introduced,) is thus spoken of by the Du Buque "Iowa News."

"The candid, clear, and able manner in which they treat the different topics upon which they touch, is highly creditable to those gentlemen, and must draw from their immediate constituents, as well as from the people of this Territory, warm and sincere thanks.

If the members of this society were only waiting to hear the report of their Delegates; and their emigrating dependent upon the contingency of a favorable report, then we think there can be no doubt, but all will be on their way to Iowa as soon as circumstances will permit, and that the next year will bring into our Territory, thousands of the most industrious and enterprising of the Canadian population.

This report may appear to eastern readers—those who have never seen a prairie, and particularly those who have never cast their eyes upon the "Black Hawk Purchase"—rather an exaggerated and flattering account of this favored country; but we can assure those who have been born and bred in the eastern woods, that the prairie country far surpasses theirs, and that this report contains nothing more than a plain and unvarnished statement of facts, true to the letter."

The Buffalo Commercial Advertiser, in relation to this subject, has these remarks;

"They, (the Delegates,) describe the country as very desirable for those who wish to emigrate. The winter is about two months shorter than in Canada, and the business season is three months longer.

If their plans are carried into effect, the result will materially affect the interests of the young territory of Iowa and of Upper Canada. Many of those enlisted in the enterprise, are men of character and worth, who would be valuable citizens of any country. They are decidedly friendly to a republican form of government, but prefer transporting their property where their industry and enterprise will be rewarded, rather than encounter the anarchy and hazard attendant on an attempt to revolutionize the Canadas."

Report of the Delegates of the Mississippi Emigration Society.

"THE undersigned Delegates, appointed by your Society to explore the Western country, and especially the Territory of Iowa, beg leave to submit this, their general Report:—

Your Delegates left Toronto on the 31st May, and proceeded by way of Buffalo to Cleveland, from thence across Ohio by the canal, 307 miles to Portsmouth, on the Ohio river, from thence down the river to the Mississippi, and again up that river to Davenport, about the centre, (on the river) of the Iowa Territory, a distance of more than 1800 miles, stopping for some days at the cities of Cincinnati, Louisville in Kentucky, St. Louis in Missouri, as well as at all towns and other stopping places.

Your delegates had thus a fair opportunity of falling in with and observing all sorts of men, and they feel themselves bound to declare, that they found them intelligent, kind, communicative, easy of access,

and ready at all times and seasons to afford all the information in their power, and that, seemingly, without reserve. They found the people temperate in their habits, beyond their expectation, obedient to the laws, industrious and frugal; and the blessings of life so equally distributed, that they did not see a beggar during their journey. In bearing testimony to the kindness and attention so universally experienced, your Delegates cannot omit to notice some individual cases. On their arrival at Cincinnati, they found that the official surveys of Iowa had been returned to the Surveyor General at that city, and that it was the only source whence they could obtain information regarding the land in that Territory. On applying to the Surveyor General, that gentleman, although it was after the usual hours of business, kindly offered the services of his department to furnish copies of the field notes, and diagrams of the surveys; he also afforded every information in his power, and the whole was done cheerfully and without charge. On their arrival at Burlington, where the Wisconsin Legislature was then in session, they were introduced to many of the Senators and Members of Assembly, and also to the Governor, (Gen. DODGE,) all of whom received them with great kindness, and showed every disposition to further their objects. With these preliminary remarks, your Delegates now proceed to report the result of their inquiries on the subject to which their attention was principally directed, viz: the boundaries, population, soil, productions, climate, trade, &c. of Iowa.

The Iowa Territory was formerly a part of Wisconsin, but was set off or separated by an act of the United States Congress of the fourth of July last, and now has its own Governor, local Legislature and laws, Judges, Courts, Land Offices, &c. It is bounded on the east and part of the north by the GREAT MISSISSIPPI river, which divides it from the State of Illinois and Territory of Wisconsin; on the west by the Missouri river, which takes its rise among the Rocky Mountains, and is navigable more than 2,000 miles above the junction of the Mississippi; and on the south by the State of Missouri, on a line at about 40 degrees north latitude. The Territory, as it now exists, is large enough for three good sized States, and it is generally supposed that when it is admitted into the Union, (which it is confidently believed will be in the year 1840,) its northern boundary will be on a line drawn due west from the Mississippi, at about 43 degrees north latitude, to the Missouri river, which will form a compact and most desirable State, the climate of which will be very agreeable to persons living in a latitude as far north as Upper Canada, or even the State of New York.

Population.—The Territory of Iowa contained, when the census was taken last spring, between 22,000 and 23,000 souls, and has been rapidly increasing since that time; while the (present) Territory of Wisconsin, (to which Iowa was formerly attached, and which had commenced settling and was a Territory before Iowa was purchased from the Indians;) by the same census only contained a little more than 18,000. There can be no doubt from the rapid settlement of Iowa, that it will

be the next Territory admitted into the Union. The inhabitants are from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, New-York, and several from the New England States. The Delegates found them, almost without exception, exceedingly kind, hospitable, intelligent, sober and industrious, peaceably inclined, mild and unassuming, but firm to maintain their rights. All seemed well satisfied with the country, and the exchange of situation they had made, and confident (with ordinary exertion) of acquiring a competence for themselves and families, which they have no doubt of enjoying in peace and tranquility.

General face of the Country.—It is generally high and dry; the bottom lands, as they are called, along the rivers and creeks, usually extending from the river, a quarter of a mile to a mile, to what are called Bluffs, (which is a rise of ground generally from 50 to 150 feet high,) sometimes by a gradual ascent, and at others more abrupt. Upon these bluffs extends a grove of timber, varying in width from half a mile to two miles, upon the back of which is the prairie. Sometimes the bluffs and timber approach the banks of the rivers and creeks, in which case there are no bottom lands. There are no lakes, large swamps, mountains or broken waste lands; the rivers and creeks run generally considerably below the average surface of the country, which carries off all the surplus water, and there is nothing to prevent, in the dry part of the season, a coach and four being driven through almost any part of the country where the roads are as yet entirely unimproved; and as soon as a few creeks and low plains are bridged and improved, there will be the finest roads throughout the whole Territory.

Soil.—The surface, or what is generally termed the soil, is a black, vegetable mould, sometimes mixed with a sandy loam, at others more nearly covered with a stiff sward and heavy coat of natural grass; which soil, after the sod is subdued, is exceedingly easily worked—it stands a drought well, and is not subject to crack, &c.

This vegetable mould averages on the high rolling prairies from 6 to 24 inches, and on the bottom lands from 24 to 48 inches, and has, for its bed or under layer, a redish clay, (which in some places is mixed with gravel,) sufficiently compact to preserve manure and moisture, but not so stiff and stubborn, as to be incapable of being pulverized and converted into good productive soil, in case the top layer of vegetable mould should become exhausted with tillage, which, however, is impossible to be the case, with one hundred years successive cropping. It requires four yoke of oxen to break it up in the first instance; but the plough used, being large, a team will break about two acres per day. One or two crops can be taken off, after the sod is first turned over, without further ploughing; and, after the sod is well rotted and subdued, which is by no means difficult or expensive, inasmuch as it can be kept under crop while rotting, the land will not require more than half the strength of team or labor to work it, that is usually required in the State of New York or in Upper Canada; the corn and potatoes will generally be tended with a plough and harrow, and wheat will al-

ways be sowed on corn ground, after the crop of corn has been taken off the same year.

Productions.—Fall and spring wheat, rye, clover, barley, peas, oats, buckwheat, potatoes, turnips, and all kinds of vegetables, clover, timothy, and also all sorts of tame grass, grow most luxuriantly, and repay well the labor of the husbandman. The Delegates saw but very little grain that had been put in seasonably and in good order, owing to the short time the settlers have been on their farms, almost the whole being the first crop, from the sod merely turned over; but from what they saw and could learn by enquiring, would judge that, with ordinary culture and season, 30 bushels of fall or spring wheat, 50 of barley, and 80 of oats and clover might be put down as an average crop. It is generally believed that a much greater yield will be obtained, but the Delegates would rather be below than above the mark. The stalk of corn and oats grows much stiffer and taller, while that of wheat is much shorter, than in Canada. These descriptions of grain scarcely ever fall down, and generally get ripe, and are dry and sound; while it is remarkable that wheat is not troubled with rust or apt to be smutty, nor has such a thing ever been known, in the north of Illinois or Iowa, as its sprouting in the field after cutting, or when in the stack; but the fall wheat was generally ripe this year about the middle of July, and the corn fit for boiling about the 20th and 25th, although the same complaint of a cold backward spring prevailed in Iowa and Illinois as in Canada and New York. The spring wheat, peas and oats were ripe and nearly all harvested by the end of July. From what the Delegates observed, they have no doubt but prairie *sod*, well turned over and planted with corn in season, will produce 35 bushels to the acre, without being hoed or touched after planting, and 20 bushels of wheat. The whole country is covered with a rich coat of natural grass, on which cattle and horses appear to do exceedingly well; the milch cows and working oxen generally looked as well in Iowa in the month of July, as cattle at that season in Upper Canada, that are feeding for beef; and the inhabitants all agree that the grass made into hay (which will produce from one to three tons to the acre) answers equally well for winter feeding. No burs or Canadian thistles have as yet made their appearance. A person settling in that country may keep as many cattle or horses as he pleases or can afford; they may roam with freedom in the summer, and with a very little labor he can procure plenty of hay for the winter.—The whole Territory is one vast meadow, as free as the waters of Lake Ontario; there is a wild pea which grows on the bottom lands and in the ravines, on which it is said horses, &c. will improve in August, September and October as fast, if not faster, than they would if turned into a field of peas in Canada. The Delegates have no doubt that all sorts of fruit produced in similar latitudes, will do well in Iowa; wherever a trial has been made it has been crowned with success. They saw gooseberries growing wild, as fine as garden's

produce, and the crab-apple, which grows wild and in great abundance, is much larger than in Canada, even where it is cultivated.

Climate.—From all the Delegates could learn, by enquiry of the oldest settlers, as well in the Territory as on the Illinois side of the Mississippi, about Rock River, some of whom have resided there from six to ten years, the seasons are very regular and uniform. The winter is said to be cold, and the wind passing over the prairies, sharp and cutting; but several of the oldest settlers, who formerly resided about Cincinnati and St. Louis, declared they would far rather endure the winter in Iowa, or Rock River country, on account of its steadiness and dryness, than at either Cincinnati or St. Louis. They generally have from six to eight weeks good sleighing, and about three months hard frost; the Delegates believe that the winter or rather the period for feeding cattle, is at least two months shorter than in Canada, but that the business season for agricultural purposes is at least three months longer, arising from the regularity of the seasons. The autumns are represented to be remarkably pleasant, and the fine weather usually lasts till December; the ice leaves the river and the navigation is open in March; after the spring rains, which generally come on early in the spring, the summer commonly passes without a single severe rain storm, but there are frequent showers and heavy dews; the summer is warm, but hardly a day passes without a fresh breeze stirring on the prairies; the air is very soft, and you never experience at evening, or after a shower, those damp, chilling winds which are so commonly felt in Canada, and which frequently and fatally lay the foundation for consumptive complaints.

Mineral Productions.—Stone coal of good quality abounds in almost all the western country, which will be very important as supplying the place of wood, and valuable for other purposes; several beds have been opened in Iowa, and the coal used by blacksmiths, &c. Excellent limestone is found in great abundance along the banks of the several rivers and creeks, and frequently good quarries of free-stone are to be met with, but what are generally termed builders' and field stone are seldom seen. Iron and lead ores of the richest quality are found in great abundance in several parts, especially lead at the north, about Du Buque, in the same parallel as the lead region of Illinois. A vast quantity is annually dug and yields from 75 to 95 per cent. which forms, even at this early period, an important article of exportation; the beds are inexhaustible, and cannot fail of being a source of vast and never-failing wealth to the Territory. No salt springs have as yet been discovered; however, plenty of salt is brought from New Orleans, Pittsburgh and other places, and sold at very little above the rates usually charged in Canada; the State of Missouri, lying immediately south of Iowa, is said to abound with strong salt springs, and no doubt others may be found convenient to the Territory, if not within its borders.

Timber.—The timber for about 200 miles north of the south boundary, is principally *white, burr, red and black oak*, hickory and black

walnut; some maple, ash, elm, birch and basswood; and is generally found along rivers and creeks, averaging from a half to two miles wide; there are also innumerable patches of timber called groves, scattered throughout the prairies; and although they do not occupy more than one-sixth part of the ground, yet it is so well interspersed, as to make the prairies narrow and convenient; the north is said to contain immense forests of the best pine, and other good timber for sawing purposes; with every facility for water power, and transportation down the Mississippi, by which means the whole country along the banks will soon be supplied at reasonable rates: considerable capital is already engaged in the lumber trade, and several rafts have been sent down the Mississippi and broken up and sold at Davenport, Burlington, and other towns: all sorts of lumber for building are at present, exceedingly scarce and dear in the Territory, arising principally from the want of saw-mills; but this difficulty will be soon overcome as there are plenty of mill-sites in the country, but it will never be as cheap and as conveniently obtained as in Canada. Some of the timber grows large, long, and thrifty, and answers well for sawing, building and making rails, while a considerable portion is quite scrubby and only fit for fuel. The Delegates cannot say from their observation, that were the timber equally divided through the whole country, there would be sufficient for all the purposes of building and fencing, when the country is well settled, although there may be plenty for fuel.—However, new settlers need have no serious apprehension on this point, as there is for the present an abundance for fuel, building and fencing, and as the settlers increase and commence on entire prairie farms, a ditch and sod fence, for which the soil is admirably adapted, can be made to answer every purpose as cheap as a rail fence. It is also to be observed, that the timber will increase rapidly as soon as the country is sufficiently settled to prevent the fires running annually, and sometimes twice a year over its whole surface. These fires are caused by the great burthen of grass growing spontaneously, ripening, and becoming dry; thereby forming combustibles sufficient, when kindled, to keep the fire running; which in its course, quite destroys most of the young shoots, and affects the larger growth of timber just in proportion to the violence with which it rages at the time, the state of the wind and atmosphere, and the dryness of the earth; thus by degrees, year after year, is gradually destroyed, the timber, which being principally oak, is very liable to decay from this cause.—In passing through the country, you will observe the largest trees in all stages, of being consumed, some severally scorched and half-dead; and others quite dead; some again half-burned down,—others, down and partly consumed, awaiting the next fire to finish or carry on the work of destruction. There is no doubt that the soil is well adapted to the rapid growth of timber, which springs up spontaneously, were it not for the ravages of the fire. The settlers all agree, that they can easily perceive an improvement in the groves, where the fire has been kept out for the last two years. From experiments tried in Illinois, the

black locust can be raised with the greatest ease imaginable; it has been known to grow from the seed in six years, large enough to be split into four good sized rails, and it is very hardy when young, while neither cattle nor sheep will browse or destroy it;—for durability either in or out of the ground, it is equal to red cedar; and for strength, it surpasses oak; it is not subject to shrink and swell with the weather, it grows tall and straight grained, and splits better than the oak, and is excellent for fuel; plenty of the seed can be obtained at Cincinnati, and a couple of dollars' worth is sufficient for a farm. Now suppose a person to settle on a rich prairie farm without timber; he could, in the first instance, enclose it by a ditch and sod fence, upon which he might sow 2 or 3 rows of locust; as he ploughed and cultivated his farm, he might divide it into lots to suit his mind, by sowing 2 or 3 rows of locust seed, so thick as to form in a couple of years, a complete hedge. The Delegates have seen them ten feet high, and large enough for a good walking stick in less than two years from sowing the seed. They may be thinned out as occasion requires, either by taking up for transplanting, or by cutting down for fuel and other purposes: by this means, in a few years, he would have his farm well timbered, and so arranged as to combine beauty and convenience at the same time. The timber in Iowa is not thrown down by the winds as in Canada, because from the nature of the soil, the roots penetrate very deep and take a strong hold. You can plough up to a tree as you would to a post set in the ground.

Trade, Commerce, Markets and Navigation.—The great Mississippi, which sweeps along the whole eastern boundary of the Territory, and neither rises nor falls suddenly, nor more than from six to nine feet, may be said to be the principal channel through which its trade will flow, either to carry off its surplus produce or import its settlers or necessities. Iowa, although situated 1700 or 1800 miles from New Orleans, may nevertheless be said to be on the seaboard; steam boats run without interruption from New Orleans far above any white settlement; about five boats pass daily along the coast of the Territory, as far as Galena and Du Buque, and some go farther, during 4 months of the business season; while not less than three, on an average, run all the season, and these will increase as the trade increases. By the same means, a trade is carried on up the Ohio River to Pittsburgh, and up the Missouri a vast distance; also up the Illinois to within about 100 miles of Chicago, on Lake Michigan; and Rock River, to within about 50 miles of Milwaukee, on Lake Michigan; from both these points canals are being constructed to the Lake; the one from Chicago is under contract, and every section commenced; also there is but very little obstruction to an entire water communication from Michigan Lake, to the Mississippi, by way of Green Bay, into the Wisconsin River, and which will no doubt, be very shortly completed; there is also the great Missouri, next in greatness to the Mississippi, which washes the whole western boundary of the Territory, besides the several smaller rivers which the Delegates will more particularly describe hereafter, under the head of rivers, which flow

throughout the whole Territory, extending from the north-west to the south-east, and empty into the Mississippi, and which will be navigated by steam boats so soon as the settlement and trade of the country will require it; for instance the Des Moines, and Iowa, and many others, will be used in various ways for the purposes of trade; these facilities for communication, together with the various rail roads made and making throughout Illinois, Indiana and Michigan, place the country in a most favorable situation in this respect, as it will have the advantage either of the northern or of the southern routes. The present charge for freight on goods from New York to the Territory by way of New Orleans, is about 6s. and 3d., Halifax currency, not more than it costs to transport goods from Montreal to the western district; and which charge, no doubt will be reduced, so soon as the trade becomes of sufficient importance to excite attention, or a return freight of lead and produce can be procured, or the Illinois and Rock River canals are completed, so as to start up a competition by the northern route. Regarding markets, it may be observed, that in the first place, the wants of innumerable settlers, that will flow for years to this favored country and settle hundreds of miles west of the Mississippi, along those fine and beautiful rivers, are to be supplied; and should there be any surplus produce, the mining and lumbering country to the north, is ready to receive and pay for it. Next comes the vast cotton growing region of the South, which must always depend upon the North for its bread, bacon, corn, hay, meat and potatoes; and there can be no doubt, that the wants of the South will increase and keep pace with the increased products of the North. Should the growth of the North be so great as to leave a surplus, after supplying all those demands, it can be sent to New York by the way of New Orleans, as conveniently and cheap, as from some parts of Ohio or western Pennsylvania. Provisions as yet have been at a high price in the country, owing to their being but little raised, and the unprecedented flow of emigrants to the Territory. The same may be said in regard to the prices of cattle, horses, hogs and sheep, wagons, harness, &c.; in general, at present, rather scarce and dear: goods are also scarce, yet nothing is wanting but competition to bring them to a fair price. Mechanics and laborers generally, are scarce, and wages high, arising no doubt from the number required on the public works in Illinois, and the ease with which land is procured in the Territory.

Rivers and Waters generally.—The Iowa Territory is as favorably situated in regard to Navigable Rivers and water generally, from the Mississippi westward, throughout its entire interior, as can well be imagined. In the first place, there are a great number of Rivers, viz: the Des Moines, the Skunk, the Iowa, (which branches into two streams about 70 miles from the Mississippi, the southern branch being called the Bison or Iowa, and the northern, the Red Cedar River;) the Wabesapinica, Great Maquoketa, the Peneca, or Turkey River, and the Upper Iowa. These rivers take their rise hundreds of miles north-west of the Mississippi, and run about the same direction south-east through the

Territory, to the Great Mississippi; and at about equal distances from each other, averaging about 20 miles; between those rivers there is a dividing ridge, (by this term they do not mean a mountain, but merely the highest land) from which flow, in every direction, innumerable springs of the purest water; those run together, and form considerable creeks, which flow into these rivers, and generally possess mill privileges. The Des Moines, running through the southern part of the Territory, is a fine river, and will be navigated by steam boats for all the purposes of trade a great distance from its mouth. It has a winding course, and is apt to shift its channel in places. The next is the Skunk, which is smaller, and rather given to sudden rises, yet a very pretty river, and may be navigated by keel boats at least, at all seasons. What are called keel boats in the West, are something similar to Durham boats, they are built with flat bottoms, and decked over like a canal boat; they are generally set up the river with poles, but have sails to use in case of fair wind. The next is the Iowa, which branches as before described; both branches are most beautiful rivers and not subject to sudden or great rises; the south branch, although the smallest and shortest, retains the name of the main river; steam boats may go up this branch a good way at high stages of water, and keel boats at all seasons. The north branch is known by the name of the Cedar, and passes nearly through the centre of the settled parts of the Territory; it approaches to within 7 or 8 miles of the Mississippi, opposite to Bloomington. There cannot be a shadow of doubt, but this river will be used by steam boats for all purposes of trade, for at least 100 miles from its mouth, so soon as the settlement and trade of the country require it. The next is the Wabesapinica, which is a very fine river, but can only be used by keel boats. The other rivers mentioned to the north, bear about the same character, in short, as to the purest and best of water for all purposes, no country can be more favorably situated, and consequently no country more healthy.

Game and Fish.—The country abounds with game of various descriptions; deer and rabbits, or hare, are to be found in great numbers, and it is said will increase with the settlement; the same may be said with regard to the prairie hen, partridge and quail; the prairie fowl is very fine and plenty; vast quantities are to be found among the stubble after harvest, and corn fields, stack, &c. During the whole fall and first part of the winter, there are plenty of ducks and geese; in the fall and spring, the geese light on the prairies in great flocks to feed on the wild rye, pea, &c.; many turkeys are found, but they will in a great measure retire as the settlements advance. Vast numbers of Buffalo are found east of the Missouri river, say 150 or 200 miles west of the Mississippi, but they are in the greatest numbers west of the Missouri river; there are very few squirrels and scarcely any bears; a great variety of fine fish are found in the several rivers, but no salmon, or white fish.

Annoyances from Ravenous Beasts, Serpents, &c.—The whole country appears to be most completely freed from every thing calculated to

annoy and injure man; there are no panthers, and very few wolves or foxes; there are a few prairie wolves, but they are hardly stout enough to destroy a good large sheep, let alone cattle or hogs. These animals, (wolves and foxes) will disappear as soon as the country is settled, there being no large swamps, mountains or hedges for them to take refuge in when pursued, and the country being so open, they would fall an easy prey to their pursuers. There are scarcely any snakes or reptiles; the Delegates in traveling about six weeks through the Territory, never met with a single rattle snake, although there were a few in certain parts of the Territory; nor any other, except garter and water snakes. Although hardly a hollow tree can be found but has a swarm of bees in it, yet strange as it may appear, there are no wasps or hornets; the cause must be, that those insects generally build their houses near the ground, and consequently they are destroyed by the fires in the fall, or early in the spring. Flies and mosquitoes are not so troublesome in Iowa as in Canada; there are but very few hawks, crows, or other destructive birds.

Danger from Indians.—The only tribes in the southern part of the Territory, are the Sacs and Foxes, commonly known as the Black Hawk Indians. They are not very numerous; probably do not exceed 1000 in all, men, women and children; the white settlers are under no apprehension of harm from them, or any other Indians. By treaty, the Government is to expend a certain portion of the purchase money for their land, in building mills, houses, and breaking ground, &c., far west of the white settlements; to which they are to be removed in October next; at which place, in future, they are to receive their installments. The Delegates saw several hundreds of them at one of their forts and camps on the Iowa river; they appeared very harmless; in short, they are most anxious to court the favor of the whites, as a protection against a far more numerous tribe, to the North, called the Sioux; with whom they have been at war, and never could, and, it is said, never can be on terms of peace; these Sioux have been always on the best and most friendly terms with the whites; and make it their boast, that they never shed a white man's blood. There are many other tribes to the north and southwest, but at so great a distance from Iowa, that they are no more known or heard of, than in Upper Canada. It appears, however, that of late, in order to prevent emigration from Canada to Iowa, certain persons in the Province, have been constantly representing all the Indian wars in Florida, and at Red River (both places being at least 1,500 miles from Iowa) as being at Iowa; the same representations have been made in regard to Indian tribes and troubles, thousands of miles to the West, and in Wisconsin to the North; the same game has been played with regard to sickness on the Chicago canal, and other places in Illinois, Indiana, Missouri and Michigan; all are reported by the same individuals, for the purpose of effect, as being in Iowa; whereas there is not a hostile tribe of Indians within 1,000 miles of the Territory, nor has there ever been the least sickness in any part; many persons declared to the Delegates that they had been sick and ailing for years, until they moved to

the Territory, immediately after which, they recovered, and now enjoy the best of health.

Price and Purchase of Land. Although a considerable part of the Territory has been surveyed into townships and quarter sections, none has been brought into market; and, consequently, the settlers are all what is termed in some countries squatters, and hold their land by what is called *claims*; the consequence is, that most of the settlers have considerably extensive farms, as it costs them no more to claim a half or whole section, than a quarter; and as persons going on early, and having pick and choice, perhaps got hold of good timber, prairie and water, &c., each of course, flatters himself before the day of government sale, he will be able to sell a part, at some price or other, to some person. Many young men have also made claims, and some have made improvements on their claims, and find themselves unable to pay for the land. Forty-five townships are advertised for sale in Nov'r. next, 5th and 19th; and, in all probability, the remainder of the surveyed townships will be sold in about a year from that time; the settlers are confident of obtaining their land at the sale for \$1 25 per acre if they have the money. Some claims sell very high according to their situation; \$8,000 was paid for half a section (320 acres) last summer, and the purchasers are going on to improve it and make it still more valuable, others are making valuable and extensive improvements on claims, which prove the confidence they have in obtaining them at the sale, and at the government price; the nearer the time approaches for the land to be brought into market, the better will be the chance for those going in with a little money, to procure an improved farm to suit them; there are still plenty of valuable claims; that is, timber, prairie, and water united, to be made, by going some distance west of the Mississippi; and the best prairie claims without timber, are to be had near the great River; besides, there are plenty of most favorable claims, at no great distance from the Mississippi, that can be got for what the improvements cost. The best way for a person who determines to settle in the Territory, is, for him, after deciding to what part he will go, to proceed at once with his family; if with his own team, he will do well to push right to the country, until he find a place to suit him; the advantage to be derived from such a course is, that the inhabitants in any neighborhood, being very anxious to have families settle among them, to assist in supporting schools, societies, &c., will use every exertion to get them suited. In our travels through the country, we had opportunities of seeing the effect of an operation, almost universal. When we made inquiries about vacant lands, if claims could be got reasonable, &c., in the neighborhood; before answering our question, they would inquire of us if we had families, and actually intended to settle on the lands; and if we did not, they would render us no assistance whatever. The Delegates have seen persons move on with their team and plough, and their family in one of those large wagons; and in the course of one hour after they made their pitch, would have their teams

loosened from the wagon, and hitched to the plough, turning over the richest soil, and never think of a house, but live in the wagon, until they had planted sufficient to furnish them with bread for the year. If the Delegates are asked what part of the Territory they would recommend to settle in, they would say from all they could hear, and from their own observation, they would recommend persons living as far north as Upper Canada, to settle somewhere between 41 and 42 degrees north latitude, which embraces what is called the Iowa, Cedar and Wabesapinica countries; the range of country takes its name from the name of the river which passes through it; of the three, they think the Cedar has the preference; it is in the centre of the settled part of the Territory, &c., this latitude is in range with what is called Rock River country in Illinois, and they think that almost every thing that may be said favorable of Iowa, may be said of Rock River country; for at least 80 or 100 miles east of the Mississippi, the soil and climate is about the same; Rock River country is rather more level, and consequently not quite so well watered, and perhaps, not so healthy.

Remarks as to the best mode of moving, &c.—There are several routes of which persons can take their choice. For a single person, or a very small family, and but little furniture, say not more than could be taken by a single team and wagon; if they were not going with their own team, they would do as well and probably better to go to Buffalo, and from there by steam boat to Chicago; sometimes passages can be obtained very cheap, as low as \$8 for a cabin passage, and then hire a team to take them across the country to Davenport, a distance of about a hundred and seventy-five miles, or any other point on the river; this route would also answer well for persons intending to go to farming, and wishing to purchase their breaking-team, plough, &c., at the West; as oxen, wagons, chains and ploughs can be procured in the country, south of Chicago, at reasonable prices,—with which team, the family, and effects might be moved across the country: persons wishing to go with their own team, would do well, if they did not start by October, to wait till winter, and then go before the frost breaks up, as considerable of the country through Michigan is rather soft in the spring; the best route going with a team is through Canada to somewhere near Sandwich, and there cross over, and then take the best road to Davenport on the Mississippi, near the mouth of the Rock River, or any other place to which they wish to proceed; but for persons with large families, and some considerable furniture, they would think their best course would be to go to Cleveland; perhaps they might manage by a number joining together, to get taken there in a schooner; then take the Ohio Canal to the Ohio River, from there take a steam boat to Davenport or any other place they may wish; in all cases, a number of families going together, will be enabled to travel cheaper than one alone: a person going by the last mentioned route can have an opportunity of procuring for his family any necessaries they may want at Cincinnati, at a cheap rate, cheaper than in Canada, viz: stoves, pots, kettles, and hollow ware

of all descriptions, tin ware, bedsteads, chairs, tables, &c. and if he wishes to build a house, he had better get his doors and window-sashes, glass, putty, nails, &c.—he can also get a supply of soap, candles, flour, pork and bacon, and put them on board a steam boat with his other luggage, by which means he would get them taken very cheap. If they wished to procure oxen, cows, horses, &c. one of the company might be commissioned and sent into the southern part of Illinois, about the Wabash River, or in the Missouri where they can be got very reasonable, much lower than in Canada, and of the finest description: by starting at the first opening of the navigation, a person might go this route and be there in time to sow oats, plant corn and potatoes, sow buckwheat, turnips, &c.—the expense must, in a great measure, depend upon the number of the family, and amount of luggage, and style of traveling; but traveling, in general, can be done in this direction as cheap, and in many instances, much cheaper than in Canada or the State of New York. It was the intention of the Delegates to have had a map to accompany this Report; but several circumstances have combined to prevent their being able to accomplish it in time; accompanying this Report is also another intended for the use of the society only, as it relates solely to their private affairs. All which is respectfully submitted.

PETER PERRY.

JAMES LESSLIE.

Toronto, Sept. 19, 1838.

Mr. Drake, of Cincinnati, in his recently published "Life and adventures of Black Hawk," has the following passages, descriptive of Iowa; or, as it is sometimes called, after the old Chief—The "Black-Hawk Purchase."

"The war in Illinois, though of brief duration, and not marked by any stirring events, came suddenly upon us after a long series of peaceful years upon the north-western border. The savages, weary of fruitless conflicts, or quelled by the superior number of a gigantic and growing foe, seemed to have submitted to their fate, and the pioneer had ceased to number the war-whoop among the inquietudes of the border life. The plains of Illinois and Missouri were rapidly becoming peopled by civilized men. A race less hardy than the backwoodsman, were tempted by the calm to emigrate to those delightful solitudes that bloom with more than Arcadian fascinations of fruitfulness and beauty. The smoke of the settler's cabin began to ascend from the margin of every stream in that wide region, and the cattle strayed through rich pastures, of which the buffalo, the elk, and the deer, had long enjoyed the monopoly—an unchartered monopoly—wondering, no doubt, at their good luck in having their lives cast in such pleasant places. It was the writer's lot to ramble over that beautiful country while these interesting scenes were presented—while the wilderness still glowed in its pristine luxuriance; while the prairie grass and the wild flowers still covered the plain, and the deer continued to frequent his ancient haunts—and while the habitations of the new settlers were so widely and so thinly

scattered, that the nearest neighbors could scarcely have exchanged the courtesy of an annual visit, without the aid of the seven-league boots of ancient story.

But though in solitude, they lived without fear. There were none to molest or make them afraid. If they had few friends, they had no enemies. If the Indian halted at the settler's door, it was to solicit hospitality, not to offer violence. But more frequently he stalked silently by, timid of giving offence to the white man, whom he doubtless regarded as an intruder upon his own ancient heritage, but whose possession he had been taught to respect, because he had ever found it guarded by a strong and swift arm, that had never failed to repay aggression with tenfold vengeance. Suddenly, however, a change came over this cheering scene. The misconduct of a few white men disturbed the harmony of a wide region. The Indians were oppressed and insulted to the last point of forbearance, and a small, but restless band, regarded as insubordinate and troublesome even by their own nation, seized upon the occasion to rush to war. It is wonderful to look back upon this eventful history. The country over which Black Hawk, with a handful of followers, badly armed and destitute of stores or munitions of war, roamed for hundreds of miles, driving off the scattered inhabitants, is now covered with flourishing settlements, with substantial houses and large farms—not with the cabins and clearings of border men; but with the comfortable dwellings and the well-tilled fields of independent farmers. Organized counties and all the subordination of social life are there; and there are the noisy school-house, the decent church, the mill, the country store, the fat ox and the sleek plough-horse.

The Yankee is there with his notions and his patent-rights, and the traveling agent with his subscription book: there are merchandize from India and from England, and in short, all the luxuries of life, from Bulwer's last novel, down to Brandreth's pills. And all this has been done in (less than) six years; in less than half the time of Jacob's courtship. In 1832, (1833) the Saukie warriors ranged over that fertile region, which is now (1838,) covered with an industrious population; while the Territories of Wisconsin and Iowa, and vast settlements in Missouri have since grown up, beyond the region which was then the *frontier and the seat of war.*"

The following is the copy of a letter from a highly intelligent gentleman, recently a citizen of Ohio, written in January 1839, from Burlington (Iowa) to his friend, the editor of the "Chillicothe (O.) Advertiser," descriptive of his adopted home.

"MY DEAR SIR:—I avail myself of this, the first convenient opportunity that has presented itself since my arrival here, to address you—and unwilling to remain longer under the obligation of pledges, I will now, with your leave, proceed to give you, as nearly as I can, but briefly, a description of *Iowa Territory*—its climate, soil, various resources, &c., &c.

On my route hither, from Ohio, I passed through the States of Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri—touching at Indianapolis, Lafayette, Springfield, St. Louis, &c. &c.—and, as you may truly infer, from your knowledge of those States, I saw much to admire—much that was grand and beautiful to look upon—much that inspired confidence in the prediction, that ours is destined to become the greatest, happiest, and wealthiest nation on the face of the globe. The traveller, whose knowledge and observation of things had been confined to the narrow limits of towns and cities in the east, is struck with astonishment and religious awe, when, for the first time, he beholds, in the west, the great scheme of nature, and the mighty system on which it works. Such at least, were my emotions, when as emerging from the confines of familiar scenes, I saw, in the approaching distance, new and brighter objects. Such were my emotions, when bidding adieu to our fair Ohio, I plunged into (not the wilderness, but) the flowing fields and the garden spots of Indiana. Such were my feelings when I viewed with eager and enchanted vision, the green, the broad, the beautifully undulating and almost interminable plains of Illinois—often, in their midst, no object to divert the eye but themselves beneath and the broad canopy of heaven above. But deep and powerful as these impressions were—confident as I was that I had seen all that was lovely, and that was *most* lovely, in the land,—yet, were these impressions instantly and forever removed—yet was this confidence at once and forever destroyed, the moment I gained the limits of *Iowa*. True, I *happened* to strike these limits at a very pretty point—but 'twould have been the same had I struck them at any other point, for they are pretty all round, and the country they encircle, is all over pretty. There is a charm in all that you see here, for every variety of taste or wish. The poet would be thrown into ecstasies of delight (as doubtless some have been) by the beauty and romance of scenery every where presented:—the statesman and patriot would view, with pride and satisfaction, the evident assurance of another great link to that chain that binds our happy Union so indissolubly together; this they would see in the vast extent of country, the boundless fertility of its soil, in the inexhaustible resources of its mines, and in its peculiar locality.

The general appearance of the country, though but little varied, is yet beautiful and picturesque. The plains, or *prairies*, are smaller, and generally more rolling than those of either Indiana or Illinois—the soil equally as rich, if not a “little richer”—the timber more abundant and of a better quality. To farmers, this Territory presents two important advantages over the States just named. In Indiana there is too much timber for the prairie—in Illinois there is too much prairie for the timber—and serious inconvenience must ultimately result in the latter State, from this fact. But in Iowa, it would seem to have been an order of Providence so to distribute and dispose its gifts, as to meet the wants and necessities of man in the way he would himself have desired. There is just enough of prairie for the timber, and just enough

of timber for the prairie—and go in any direction you may, over this vast region, you will find, on all sides, beautiful and rich farms, *measured off by the hand of nature*, and calculated, in every respect, for all the wants, conveniences and wishes of the farmer. The surface is rich, mellow loam; black, from one and a half to three feet deep, and slightly mixed with sand. The second formation is a hard clay, in some places yellow, in others blue. Beneath this there is, at different places, different strata of stone—amongst others there is an abundance of lime stone and free-stone. Lead and Coal mines abound in various parts of the Territory, which will forever be, a source of immense revenue to those who may possess them—so that in addition to their admirable adaptation to agricultural purposes, the lands here are rendered doubly valuable by their inexhaustible mineral resources.

The great Mississippi washes our eastern boundary from north to south. Of this inestimable advantage as a channel of business and commerce it is useless to speak; but it may be remarked that, here, it is clear, pure, and cold as from its fountain source—more tranquil than it is farther south, though it pursues its way in a strong and steady current. It is navigable from eight to ten months of the year—and allow me too add, that it is navigated during these months, and that too, by steamboats of all classes, *and in any number*—and what is equally interesting, the owners and commanders of these boats find it matter of vast interest to themselves so to improve the advantages thus presented. Along the banks of the river the country presents rather a rugged front, and for a mile or two back is somewhat broken. It is here that a series of immense prairies begin, stretching the whole extent of the Territory from north to south, and spreading across from five to ten miles. Even this is highly valuable, and beautiful to look upon—but that which is beyond is superbly grand, and far exceeding the power of description. It is on the western borders of this grand prospect, that the garden spots of nature, decked in all the loveliness of wild and primitive simplicity, break upon the vision, and bewilder the spectator with their enchanting and variegated beauties.

It has been said, by one who, though a poet, happened to be a man of sense, that *"comparisons are odious."* Admitted; but cannot the beauties or excellencies of one thing be illustrated by comparison with another without detracting from that other? Certainly—and, governed by this sentiment, I have already said something as to the relative value and advantages of land here, and lands in Indiana and Illinois—and governed by the same sentiment, I will now proceed to compare our waters and other commercial advantages, with those of one or two of the neighboring States. I would not say aught against the beautiful and majestic Wabash, or any of its pure tributaries. They are indeed valuable and pretty streams, and the Hoosier State has reason to rejoice in the amount and value of its waters. Not so in Illinois. Its streams are few, and consequently 'tis far between "watering places"—and worse than all, they are impure and muddy when you reach them.

Not so in Iowa! "Fair Zurich's waters," E'en the "golden Gaudalquiver," would lose their glories when compared with the bright transparency of the *Des Moines*, the gently gliding *Iowa*, or the deep and broad and silent *Cedar*. These streams have their source in table lands in the north-west, and traverse, in parallel lines, in a south-easterly direction, the whole extent of the Territory, until they hide their blushing and now diminished beauties in the bosom of the great Father of Waters. These streams are all navigable for, and are navigated by steam-boats. There are also numerous smaller streams watering every part of the Territory, and affording an abundance of water for milling purposes, or for propelling other machinery—and to be added to these, are innumerable *springs* of purest and ever-living water, gushing from the earth in all the vigor of freedom and untamed nature.

The foregoing will probably serve to give you an *idea* of the *appearance* of things here. Permit me now to add a few facts relative to the *productions* of our soil. Corn is produced here to the amount of from 60 to 80 bushels to the acre; wheat, from 20 to 30; oats, 30 to 40 and 50; buckwheat, 20 to 30, &c. &c., and all demanding from 20 to 30 per cent. more than in Ohio, Indiana, or Illinois. Mechanics, of all kinds, find employment here ready, and receive good, if not high wages—and there is a continued and increasing demand for them. A few *Preachers of the Gospel* would also be accepted—not that there is to my knowledge a very wide field for them to labor in, for that would seem to argue that we are a hopeless set of reprobates, which I am far from believing; on the contrary, I would rather obtrude the opinion, honestly entertained, that morality and religion are widely spread, constantly practiced, and generally observed among our citizens: our real condition is rather this; we are in a flock without a shepherd; it is therefore believed, that a few more ministers would add to the appearance at least, if not to the merit of things. As for *Lawyers*, we have already a *large supply*, and a very interesting variety, too. We are also bountifully supplied with *Physicians*,—even to excess. *Merchants*, who trade on their own capital, succeed well here: I am inclined to think that that business is good, if not first rate. We have but one bank, and consequently but few *speculators*—yet our towns wear a lively business aspect.

As to *climate*, I think we are peculiarly favored. An error prevails in the mind abroad on this subject. In spring, summer, and autumn, the general temperature of the climate is mild and salubrious. In winter, though at times cold, the weather is clear, almost perpetual sunshine—no clouds, nor rains, nor deep and continued snows; and what adds to the beauty of our climate, in summer and in winter, is, that the weather is uniform; no sudden changes of winds—no sudden transition from heat to cold. The general *health* of the country is *good*. Immediately on the river, sickness has prevailed to some extent, and it must be confessed that at two or three of the towns it must ever be unhealthy. But back from the river (the Mississippi) the health of the

people has been good; and the general appearance of the country gives sufficient assurance of perfect healthfulness. Two or three unfortunate locations of towns on the river, have been productive of much mischief to the Territory, as, proving decidedly unhealthy, the impression has gone abroad that the whole country is so. Nothing can be more untrue or unjust. As to the inhabitants, and the character of society here, I am proud to state, and do state with confidence, that, taking our citizens, *en masse*, they present as great an aggregate of good practical sense, general intelligence, and sound morality, as can be found amongst the same number in any community in any part of the country. * * *

A census was taken in July last, and the number of inhabitants then in the Territory was ascertained to be nearly 23,000—5,000 more than in Wisconsin; and there can be but little doubt but that we now number at least 32,000; nineteen twentieths of whom are *tillers of the soil*—and the cry is still, "*they come!*"

We have probably something rising of seven millions of acres of land; all of which, with the exception of the last purchase, (one million and a quarter) has been surveyed; forty-seven townships (or about 1,070,000 acres) were brought into market in November last; one half at least of which has been sold, and sold readily—and I think I hazard nothing in saying that the remainder will be sold within the next six or eight months; and that too, to *actual settlers*. Such is the value of the lands, and such the steady and immense influx of emigrants. The principal part of our present population hail from Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, bringing with them the habits of industry and enterprise, and the liberal and honest principles which characterise the people of those States. You and other friends to our infant Territory, may confidently predict for it a bright and glorious destiny.

Amongst other favors, we have, for our Governor, that venerable and time-worn servant of Ohio, General Lucas, whose great experience and sound views of public policy, and whose honesty and pure patriotism, are a safe guaranty that our course will be onward and upward.

* * * * *

In conclusion, (for I must come to a conclusion, as you are doubtless quite tired of me,) I would merely remark, that *you can confidently recommend Iowa Territory to the favorable consideration of all who wish to emigrate*. It certainly presents advantages far superior to any portion of the western country, for agricultural, mechanical, mercantile or other purposes; besides which, it is the most lovely, and the most beautiful in appearance. If I can be of any service to yourself, or to any of your friends or acquaintances, you have but to command me; *but you must speak soon*; elegantly improved farms and thriving little villages, with a "small sprinkle" of cities, (not *paper ones*, either) are springing up, as if by magic, in all parts of the Territory; and

there is no time to be lost by those who would avail themselves of an interesting prize.

Your friend and servant,

JAMES M. MORGAN."

John Hough, Esq.

The following remarks upon the climate, will be understood as alike applicable to both Iowa and Wisconsin.

From the Racine (Wis.) Argus.

CLIMATE OF WISCONSIN [AND IOWA.]

"The purity of our atmosphere has been the subject of remark by every traveller who has been in the Territory. Indeed ever since it was first discovered, it has been spoken of and written about as a striking peculiarity. An old gentleman, lately from Massachusetts, told me the other day, that he thought he could see objects here at the distance of five miles, with as much distinctness as he could at the distance of three miles in New England.—Many a weary traveller, unacquainted with this phenomenon, when he comes in sight of his point of destination, has congratulated himself that his day's labor was at last almost to a close; when, after walking and walking, his goal apparently receding, he has been disappointed to find that it ends yet several miles distant. Not only is our atmosphere clear in fine weather, but we have fewer cloudy days. In the spring, and late in the fall, we have some rainy weather, but the summer and winter, and most of the fall, so far as I have observed, have been remarkably clear. Our climate is a little warmer than that of the same degree of latitude at the East, we being in about 42 deg., and I think much more uniform.

Now these phenomena do not happen fortuitously and of themselves, but have their causes, which may be ascertained and explained in the most scientific manner. I do not pretend that I can give each an explanation, but I think I may throw out some considerations which will be useful to the curious and inquiring mind.

1. Wisconsin is a level country, it has no mountains and few hills. I have frequently observed in New England, previous to a rain, that the clouds would gather about some mountain, and having rallied all their forces, would sally out and spend their fury upon the adjoining country, and then return to some other mountain or perhaps even to their original starting place. All travellers have told us that upon some of the highest mountains in the world there is one continual storm of hail, rain or snow. Hence poets, who are nature's truest scholars, have applied to mountains the epithet, cloud-capt. On the contrary, we are told that level countries, suffer most from drought, for instance, Egypt, where there is no rain for months in succession. Therefore we conclude, that the mountains have a natural affection towards clouds and storms, and call them to their rugged breasts for the purpose, perhaps, of adding still more to their native grandeur.

2. Our country may be called a level country. The prairies are open to all the winds, and the rays of the sun, and moreover the rank vegetation which grows upon them every year, is consumed by fire. How the atmosphere is affected by a country being cleared we cannot tell, but we have heard it often remarked in the older States, that the snows were not so deep or frequent, as when the country was first settled and heavily timbered.

3. The kind of soil has an effect upon the temperature of the climate.

4. The adjacent regions of country; Wisconsin on the north, has Lake Superior, and on the north-west a large tract of sandy country, as I have been informed, and on the east Lake Michigan. Every one knows that England has a much warmer climate than other countries in the same latitude, from the fact, that she is entirely surrounded by water.

5. The height of ground. This I think is the great reason why the atmosphere here is so remarkable for its purity. All Wisconsin may be considered as table land. I believe the ground here, is, upon an average, higher above the level of the ocean than that of any other State. The waters of Lake Michigan empty into Huron, which again flow into Lake Erie at Detroit. Lake Erie is lower at Buffalo than at Detroit, and Buffalo is some four or five hundred feet higher, by the canal, than Hudson river at Albany. Consequently we believe the ground of Wisconsin is higher than that of any of the States east of it. All the larger rivers in our Territory run south, finding their way into the Mississippi, and thence into the ocean. Hence we believe that Wisconsin is higher than any state of the Union. With these facts before us, we think that the climate and pure atmosphere of Wisconsin are sufficiently accounted for.

The effect of this climate is vigorous health and elastic spirits. Every new settler immediately upon his arrival here, perceives that his appetite has increased and became more healthy. No case of fever and ague or bilious fever, or of any epidemic, has ever originated in the country; and every physician settled in this county has resorted to some other employment. This state of health is the more remarkable, when we consider that the majority of the settlers have either made long journeys by land, or long voyages by the Lakes; and after their arrival, have suffered many privations, for want of suitable houses, their customary diet, and by being obliged to perform an unusual amount of labor at the commencement of their farms."

EATON.

The subjoined extracts are taken from the editorials of the "Gazette," published at Burlington, now in Iowa—and, consequently, formerly in Wisconsin.

An Evening Colloquy.

"Sit down, gentle reader—we desire to commune with thee. We know of no better or more pleasant way of whiling away a long and tedious evening, than by freely and unreservedly conversing with friends—friends we hold all our readers to be. * * *

We congratulate you upon the flourishing condition of our Territory. And have we not cause for gratulation? Let us see. But little more than a year has elapsed since your organization—then no one knew any thing of Wisconsin, and but few could even trace it on the map—it was considered beyond the pale of civilization. Gradually the eyes of the people were opened, and public attention was turned to it. It was discovered you had inexhaustible mines of copper, lead and iron—that on your lake borders you had numerous natural harbors, and a country eminently calculated for commercial purposes—while on the west side of the Mississippi, was to be found an agricultural country inferior to none in the world. All these advantages you enjoyed, and it was not to be expected they would be overlooked—nor have they. Already, you begin to feel your strength—already, do you talk of becoming a member of the great American confederacy—already, even, are you looking about for men in whom to confide your places of trust, when that great event shall take place. But we must be divided—yes, verily, we must, and we are sorry, and we are not sorry for it—sorry, because to our sister on the other side of the river, we have much reason to be attached—we have lived within her borders, and know well how to estimate her; and we are not sorry, because, knowing that a separation must take place, we believe a speedy dissolution of the bonds will be beneficial to both. We shall then have a separate organization—Wisconsin will retain her present energetic and excellent chief magistrate, and Iowa will have a new one.

Reader, again we congratulate you, that amidst the severe and general shock felt throughout the Union, Wisconsin, and particularly our own section of it, has been measurably free from suffering and distress—that although every where else confidence is lost, and business for a time suspended, *you* have gone on, with your wonted activity and enterprise, in improving and building up the country, and developing its resources. Compare, for a moment, your situation with that of the citizens of the old States, at present, and then say whether you are not more than compensated for all the self-denial you have practised, and all the hardships you have endured—say whether your hopes have not been more than realized—whether you would exchange the West as it is, with all that it will be, for the lands you have left! We well know your answer, and most cordially respond to it. Home has its endearments—the spot upon which we were born, is consecrated and holy—our affections still cling to our “father land,” the State of our nativity, with their pristine vigor, but this is on account of the past—here we live solely for the future. The veil of destiny has been so far removed, as to give us merely a glimpse of what we are to be; and that has not only reconciled all of us to our change, but has made many enthusiasts. Think ye, reader, we are of the latter class? If so, we will detain you no longer; so you to your bed, and we to our editorial labors.”

"For many years past, the State of Illinois was the *fashionable* resort of every man who left his "father-land" and turned his face toward the setting sun. It was the great point of attraction to the man of enterprise,—the El-Dorado of him who sought the true Philosopher's stone. But the face of things is now changed. This Territory, and especially the Iowa District, is now her competitor in attraction—her successful rival. The tide of emigration stops no longer upon the banks of the placid Illinois, but rolls across the majestic Mississippi. In plain words, this is the point to which every man, the moment he "pulls up stakes" at home, points his eye, and hither he wends his way. The consequence is, that Illinois is not now "*going a-head*" as rapidly as in *times past*. Her population does not increase as fast—her prairies are not settled as quickly and thickly, and her speculators in "*her hundred cities*," are not now amassing a fortune in a single day. All these have had a check, and that check proceeds from us, not by any indirect or improper means, but from our better country—our luxuriant soil, excellent water, abundance of timber, minerals, &c. &c."

"Mr. H. S. Tanner has, in a recent edition of his large map of the United States, published a few days after the passage of the bill laying it off, given Iowa its proper place, which is pronounced very correct.

Every day convinces us more and more, of the great advantages we are to derive from a separate territorial organization. We are becoming known—public attention is every where directed to us, and we will assume a character of our own. During our recent visit to the East, previous to the passage of the bill referred to, we were utterly astonished at the ignorance of the people generally, with regard to Iowa; and when we told them that it contained a greater population than Wisconsin, they seemed to be dumb-founded. True, they had heard of Burlington and Du Buque; but we found it almost impossible to persuade them that these flourishing towns were located on the west bank of the Mississippi—their vision seemed to be bounded by this great river. Now, that we are disconnected with Wisconsin, we shall become better known, and our advantages will stand out in bold relief. We may seem like enthusiasts, but we think we exaggerate nought when we say, that the sun never shone upon a lovelier and better country than this. It is a country for all sorts of honest people. It will make the rich richer, and the poor rich. It encourages industry and rewards it. It holds out to enterprise and industry, and capital every inducement. But more anon."

"*Game.*—The season is close at hand when sportsmen may take to their guns. The woodcock are now in prime order, and may be "*bagged*" without any infringement upon the "game laws," or the imputation of "*poaching*." The young pheasants and prairie hens are also well grown, and in fine condition. The kindness of friends enables us to speak from experience, having been recently favored with a few brace from

their well-stored *bags*. Deer will become abundant as the Indians leave us. Partridges, pigeons and turkeys, are very plenty, and will soon be "fair game." Bear and elk, some distance hence, may also be found. We could make the mouths water of some of our eastern epicurean friends, by a bare enumeration of the many good things, in the fish and fowl line, with which we are blessed, were we so mischievously disposed, but we are too amiable for that, and will no further offend in that way, than by telling them a word of our *prairie hen*, of which we suppose them to know but little, but which we beg leave to assure them, is one, if not the chief of our delicacies, and will balance their canvass backs and their oysters. The *prairie hen*, then, is no less distinguished a bird than the pinnated grouse or heath hen, some few of which, are found on Long Island, some parts of New Jersey, and the north-eastern part of Pennsylvania, and which, so highly are they esteemed, readily command in the New York market from \$3 50 to \$5 per brace. They are nearly the size of a common barn fowl, and in the fall of the year become gregarious, and are found in large flocks. In summer they go to the *prairie*. They become excessively fat, do not fly far or fast, and are easily bagged. Their habits are different in some respects from the northern bird of the same kind, and in consequence, there is a difference in the color of the meat and its flavor, but they are certainly no less delicious on that account. Come here, this fall, bring your gun along, and your pointer, if you have one, and we'll show you how to do up the *prairie hen*."

"The 'squires, in scorn, will fly the house
For better game, and look for grouse."

"We had rare sport in bagging grouse the other day. It was "our first appearance" in that character in the "*Purchase*," and the "chance was right smart" to do a good day's work; and it was done. A couple of friends, first rate shots, proposed a hunt, and liking the opportunity, for we knew their skill, we got our "fixens" and off we hied to the *prairie*—and the way that the feathers flew was "a caution." The sport was "perpendicular"—straight up and down. In about six brief hours, that flew faster "than chickens," we bagged thirty-six grouse and half a dozen of partridges—the little *varmints* we killed in compliment, or justice, as you please, to the never failing fidelity of the dog—"the trustiest of his kind." Thirty-six well grown, fine, fat, pinnated grouse! Think of that, Master Brooke!—In very troth,

"With slaughtering guns the unwearied fowler roved."

Des Moines and Iowa Rivers.

"Upon looking over the general appropriation bill of the last Congress, we find in it an item of one thousand dollars, appropriated to defray the expenses of a survey of the Des Moines and Iowa rivers, with a view of making them navigable. This appropriation, trifling though it may seem in its amount, we look upon as of very great im-

portance. Although entirely insufficient to defray the expenses of as complete a survey as we should like to have made, it will, most probably, be the means of calling forth a report on the subject; and this, of itself, is accomplishing one half. In the whole western country we know of no improvement of the same magnitude, which could be effected at so little expense, as the one which this appropriation has in view. Boats have already ascended the Des Moines to the distance of nearly, if not quite, one hundred miles; and as the Indian Agency has been, or is about to be, removed from Prairie du Chien to a point on that river, a few miles west of our boundary line, we understand it is the intention of the Agent to have all his supplies forwarded by steam boats. It seems then, that even now, when the water is at a good stage, steamers can ascend without any great difficulty. The country watered by the Des Moines is by far the most densely settled part of Iowa. From its mouth for forty or fifty miles upwards, there is a constant succession of towns; and few, if any, of the older States, can boast of a population which combines, in a greater degree, active enterprise with general intelligence. It is very apparent, therefore, that a very few years will elapse, ere its trade will be an object worthy the highest attention.—When we look at the comparatively trifling expenditure required to render its navigation easy and safe for several months in the year, we feel the utmost confidence of ultimate success.

At present, the settlements on the Iowa are by no means as great as those on the Des Moines; but few, very few years will elapse, ere a foot of land along its banks cannot be found unoccupied. Steam boats have already been up as high as Catteese, the mouth of the Cedar. Like the Des Moines, a very small expenditure is all that is necessary to make it a good navigable stream."

"Land of the West—beneath the Heaven
There's not a fairer, lovelier clime;
Nor one to which was ever given
A destiny more high, sublime.

The West—the West—on every breeze
Is borne an echo from the West;
The tide of human destinies
Is flowing to that region blest,
What man has been, in blood and tears
Is graved upon an iron page;
What man can be—ask saints and seers,
The dreamers of a golden age.
Yet who had dreamed so wild a dream,
As into startling truth has burst,
Since in the young Italian's scheme
An unknown embryo world was nursed?"

It would be supererogation in the writer, to attempt a farther illustration of the *general appearance* of the country, by adding aught of his own to the graphic descriptions already given. But possibly, there may be some, inclined to suppose the picture too highly colored, if not greatly exaggerated. If any such there be—nor would it be strange if there are—let them rest assured, that “to paint the lily,” with the view to increasing its natural beauty, would be as easy a task as, and no less “wasteful and ridiculous excess,” than to essay by words alone, to transcend the primeval perfection of the lovely original. As soon would I undertake to convey an adequate idea of the splendor of the mid-day sun to the benighted mind of one who had never seen it shine—as of the charming characteristics of the scenery of Iowa and Wisconsin, to that of the scarcely less unfortunate being, whose destiny had denied him the gratification of a view of the great valley of the Upper Mississippi. From my soul, I pity the man who has never been west of the Allegheny Mountains! His conception of the mighty works of the Creator, is necessarily less perfect than that of the resident of the “Far West,” who has never seen the *Ocean*; and in nine cases out of ten, he denies himself a participation in the superior advantages of a region, which a visit to this most delightful Territory, could not but seduce him to embrace. The wisdom of the Almighty, is strikingly manifested in the difference characterising the country on the respective sides of the “back bone” of the Union. That, on the last, having the benefit of propinquity to the sea-board, is comparatively sterile, and difficult of subjection to the purposes of agriculture—whilst the remoteness of this, on the West, is more than compensated by the pains so lavishly bestowed upon it by Nature, in rendering it all that the most unreasonable mortal could have the presumption to desire.

Had it been decreed that the respective positions of Maine and Iowa had been transposed: the gratifying prospect which this region now presents—of refinement of civilization, and its attendant enjoyments—could not have been witnessed for ages yet to come, if ever.

I cannot refrain from here introducing a few brief extracts from the pens of some of the most intelligent writers at the East, in reference to the general subject matter under consideration, upon which I so much delight to dwell.

Extract of a letter from the editor of the Dedham (Massachusetts) Patriot, written while on a tour through the West, and shortly before the division of Wisconsin.

“Henry Dodge, a man somewhat distinguished in the late Indian wars, in this part of the country, is Governor of the Territory of Wisconsin. He is said to be a man of strong mind, very decided in his character, and much of a gentleman. He is quite popular with his party, and with the people generally. The Wisconsin Legislature was not what I expected. In my previous travels, I had met very little of that “half horse, half alligator” character, so generally attributed to the inhabitants of the West, or that Lynch law spirit that is said to prevail

to such an alarming extent in the new States; but I did suppose I might find some of the law-makers of Wisconsin arrayed in wild cat caps and hunting shirts, some of them, also rather "wolfy about the head and shoulders." But I was mistaken. The members of the Legislature were as fine looking, well dressed, gentlemanly, intelligent, enterprising men, as I have ever seen assembled together in a public body, in any part of the country. The public business was transacted in the most orderly manner, and in strict accordance with parliamentary rules. And here I will take occasion to remark, that those who suppose the West a wild, barbarous country, and the people a set of ignorant, cold-blooded ruffians, or rough eccentric back-woodsmen, mistake the leading features of the country, as much as I did in the instance referred to. There are probably very few literary men in the "far west"—very few good writers, or public speakers—but there is much commercial business talent, much general intelligence, much knowledge of human nature, much penetration and strength of mind; and in such a community, a man of loose habits, of trifling abilities, or superficial acquirements, sinks very suddenly to his proper level. Dr. Beecher, in his Appeal for the West, speaks of this subject forcibly. He says that there is no greater mistake, than for men of small abilities—clergymen, who *somehow* do not succeed in the East—to suppose they can make a better figure in the new States. If clergymen, he adds, cannot labor with effect where they have the force of long established custom in their favor, they must not hope to collect an audience at the West, where men are weighed with a penetrating shrewdness that no sophistry can blind, no artifice can deceive. There is much intelligence at the West. There are many noble minded, enterprising, independent men, before whose glance the timid, conceited puerility of the older States would shrink in dismay. This subject is well understood at the West."

"To an enterprising, and firm-hearted man the Western country offers many and strong inducements. There are millions of acres unsold and untilled; the soil is rich and gives forth its products, requiring almost too little cultivation, and although one must be content with a life of frugality, self-denial and hardship at first, it is certain that industry will meet with a speedy and abundant return.

That vast territory is yet destined to wield a tremendous influence in the destinies of the nation. With its rapidly increasing population, its broad and fertile lands, its mighty rivers, and its inexhaustible mineral and agricultural resources, it will bear a comparison with any portion of our country, and must go rapidly forward in the race of improvement. The means of education are beginning to be widely diffused, and the men of influence are already laboring to strengthen the lever of moral and intellectual power by which they hope to move the rest of the country at their will. A western Representative has said in the halls of Congress, in regard to some measure which he was unable to carry, "wait but a few years, and the West will be able to do as she

pleases," and in truth, whoever compares on the map or by actual observation, that vast territory with the rest of the country, and remembers that the north and the south may be opposed upon questions of general policy, must acknowledge that with unanimity in her councils, the West may yet take the lead in the great questions which deeply concern our interests as citizens and our existence as a Republic. We ought not, then, to regret that men of sound principles and sterling honesty and tried patriotism, are removing from the old landmarks and making their homes in the West. They will mould the minds of those around them, improve by their example the moral condition of the people among whom they settle, disseminate proper views, and be the means of diffusing a spirit of harmony and good will abroad, and of checking those violent outbreaks of feeling which too often occur in the midst of a new and mixed population, not yet accustomed to the direct and regular action of the laws."

"Progress of the West.—The value of the agricultural products which annually descend the river Mississippi is estimated at seventy millions of dollars. It appears from official documents, that the value of the property annually transported on the Erie Canal, in New York, is sixty seven millions of dollars, paying in tolls to the State Treasury \$1,614,000; but we presume this amount comprehends the value of all the goods transported each way.

In the year 1798, when an assessment was made with a view to the levying of direct taxes by the General Government, the property west of the Allegheny Mountains, in States and Territories of the American Union, was valued at only twenty-six millions: the same district is estimated at the present day to contain property of the value of twelve hundred millions.

The State of Indiana has 6000 men at work on her railways and canals. The works of internal improvement already begun and proceeding towards completion, with unexampled rapidity, in the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Michigan, will cost forty-eight millions when finished—a wonderful amount, if we reflect on the recent settlement of that part of the Union, and the comparatively feeble number of the inhabitants."

From the Cincinnati Advertiser.

IOWA TERRITORY.

"We, this day, take great pleasure in communicating to our readers very important, as well as interesting intelligence, respecting this Territory, which bids fair very soon to add another star to the sublime galaxy of States in our glorious Union. The extra below, comes from unquestionable authority, and in itself shows the superior intelligence of the writer; the reader, who is interested in the information, may therefore rely upon the truth of the statement. He is no speculator—no fabricator of towns and cities in swamps, elegantly

represented on paper;—he has no lots for sale, nor farms in an imaginary El Dorado, with which to deceive the credulous; his descriptions, so far as they go, are given with sincerity and from actual observation, without regard to selfish pecuniary motives, and were written, not for publication, but for the information of a friend, who asked for his opinion and advice upon the subject.”

“BURLINGTON, IOWA TERRITORY, }
December 25, 1838. }

DEAR SIR:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a letter of the 30th ult., from our friend, Major AVERY, asking my views with regard to this country; also informing me of your intention of emigrating to Iowa.

On my arrival in this Territory, I visited Bloomington, Rockingham, Davenport and Du Buque, which, together with this place, are the principal towns in the Territory; since which time, I have been pretty much engaged in my official duties, and have not seen so much of the country as I should, had I been differently situated; but I have seen enough to enable me to form my own opinions as to its advantages and disadvantages, its productions, &c. I can say, that in my judgment, Iowa is not surpassed in point of real advantages, both agricultural and commercial, by any portion of the western country. So far as I have become acquainted with the citizens, I can say that in point of enterprise, hospitality, intelligence and respectability, that they will compare with an equal number in any portion of our country.

The soil is generally of a light, black, rich and sandy formation, and well adapted to the production of corn, wheat, potatoes, and such other productions as are usual in this latitude. The country is well watered with an abundance of excellent springs, creeks, and rivers. The Des Moines, Iowa, Cedar, and Wabesepinica rivers, are, I think, susceptible of being made navigable at a small expense, for at least three months in the year. The prairies are generally rolling and finely interspersed, and surrounded with groves of timber, mostly of the various kinds of oak, of a good quality for farming purposes; with sugar, lynn, walnut, &c. I am convinced that there is no portion of our country that holds out so great inducements to the enterprising farmer as this. The mineral country in the north part of the surveyed portion of the Territory, together with the extensive pineries still farther north, will afford a good market for a great portion of a surplus produce. And the great southern market is more easy of access from here, than any portion of the Ohio. The lead mines will undoubtedly be a source of great wealth when properly worked. The pine region which lies still north of the mineral country, will be a source of great wealth at no distant day.

But a very small portion of the lands have, as yet, been brought into market. The public sales commenced on the 19th ult., and lasted two weeks, during which time, the receipts of the land office amounted

to near three hundred thousand dollars. There were but few speculators here, and those that were here, mostly loaned their money to the settlers, and but a small portion was purchased on speculation.

The most desirable lands in *this* portion of the country are claimed, and the claims held highly; but I am informed that north of this, on the Iowa and Cedar rivers, &c., that there may be choice selections of farming lands made; and I consider the country in every respect, as desirable. It is my present intention to locate myself permanently in the Territory. I shall not determine in what part, until the Territorial seat of Government is located, which I flatter myself will be soon."

COMMERCE OF THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI.

Some idea of the extent of the commercial business of Iowa, and of *western* Wisconsin may be formed from a knowledge of the fact, that the total number of steam boat arrivals and departures at the Port of Du Buque for 1837, was no less than *seven hundred and seventeen!* Of this number, one hundred and ninety-seven were arrivals from St. Louis and ports on the Ohio River, and one hundred and sixty-one from ports on the Wisconsin and Mississippi, above Du Buque. Twenty-nine boats were engaged in the trade. The first arrival was in the month of March—the last in December.

The commerce of 1838 did not quite equal that of the preceding year, owing to the peculiarly unfavorable state of the river, and the *hardness* of times; the effect of which, however, will be to increase the business of the present season.

NEWSPAPERS, &c.

A safe criterion of the character of any population will generally be found in the support it affords to the periodical press.

The first newspaper ever published in Iowa (then part of Wisconsin) was the "Du Buque Visitor," at Du Buque, on the 11th day of May, 1836, by my worthy and enterprising friend John King Esq., and consequently, this was the *first newspaper* ever issued on the west side of the Mississippi River, above the State of Missouri.—Iowa, now—being less than three years since the appearance of the "Visitor;" and less than six years since Black Hawk first gave possession of the soil—contains no less than four weekly papers, and proposals have been issued for as many more.

The proposed limits of this little work will not admit of giving a detailed account of *every* town in either Territory, that would otherwise be entitled to notice. On the contrary, a few only, taken at random, as "*average samples*" of the whole, will be briefly "*sketched.*"—Should the object of the author's humble endeavors in preparing these "*sketches,*" be happily attained by assisting in superinducing immigration, it is hardly to be supposed, that any individual coming to settle in the country, will be likely to determine his selection of a situation, from the representations made by *any* writer, without first examining

for himself. At any rate, should this work accidentally fall into the hands of such a person, I would beg leave to say to him, in the spirit of friendly advice, not to locate *any where at first sight*, however flattering the prospect; but wait until you shall have had the opportunity, from *personal* observation, of forming for yourself, an opinion of the relative advantages of the different portions of the country. For, whilst it might be almost impossible for him to make a positively bad selection any where, either in Iowa or Wisconsin—still, acting under the first impulse of delight, on beholding a region so superior to what he had been previously accustomed to—he might, perhaps, be tempted to settle down upon a spot, which a farther examination of the country, would have satisfied him to be inferior to others, equally available. Whilst, therefore, there is a choice, it certainly is worth spending a little time to take advantage of it.

THE CITY OF BURLINGTON

Is the temporary seat of Government of Iowa Territory. The first session of the Legislature, has recently been held there; and a law passed, establishing the *permanent* Capitol in Johnson County; towards the erection of which, Congress has appropriated the sum of twenty thousand dollars—and this amount will, in all probability, be increased (as was the case in Wisconsin) to forty thousand. Five thousand dollars, besides, have been given for the purchase of the public library.

Burlington contains one of the Land Offices; and some estimate may be formed of the astonishing rapidity with which the surrounding country is filling up with industrious farmers, when it is known that the sum of two hundred and eighty thousand dollars was received there, during the continuance of the public land sales, (two weeks) in November last. Of this vast amount, more than two hundred thousand dollars have been paid by actual settlers.

The receipts at this office, during the first four days of the week, ending 12th January last, at *private entry*, amounted to between forty-five and fifty thousand Dollars.

The following is the copy of an official statement of the business of the Burlington Land Office, since it was first opened, (up to 14th March, 1839.) Almost all the land sold, has been purchased by *actual settlers*; and a considerable amount is occupied, which has not yet been brought into market.

“At the opening of the Land Office in the Burlington land district, twenty-five townships or fractional townships of land were proclaimed to be sold on the 19th November last. The aggregate quantity of land contained within the limits of these townships is 562,018 acres.—Of this amount 15,535 acres were reserved from sale for the use of schools, leaving 546,482 acres subject to be sold; and of this last amount 28,532 acres have been sold under the several pre-emption laws; 536,070 acres have been sold at public sale, and 58,423 acres at private entry—making

the aggregate sold, from the opening of the office in October last up to this time, 322,968 acres, and leaving 223,513 acres remaining unsold, and subject to sale at private entry.

The following are the several amounts which have been received up to the 14th March 1839.

Amount received under act granting one quarter section to counties	\$ 393 93 $\frac{1}{4}$
Do. under pre-emption act of 1834,	707 12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do. do. do. 1838,	48,187 37 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do. during public sales,	295,495 61 $\frac{1}{4}$
Do. at private entry,	73,201 84 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total,	\$417,885 89"

This city has, moreover, an Insurance Company, the "Burlington and Des Moines River Transportation Company"—the charter of which authorizes the loaning of its surplus funds, at an interest of twelve per cent. per annum,—a steam ferry-boat—a regularly established race-course—and last, though not least, an excellent newspaper, the able editor of which, thus discourses of a trip he took in October last, &c.

"Our readers, we feel assured, will find no fault with us if, in our zeal for the prosperity and well-being of the particular section of country in which our lot has been happily cast, its advantages and resources have been made the subject of frequent remark. In descanting upon these, our patrons here can bear witness that we have dealt in nothing but facts—no contribution has been levied upon the imagination—nothing has been embellished or too highly colored. Never permitting our zeal to get the better of our judgment, we have made it a rule to speak of, and represent things just as they are.

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We are again about to speak on the same subject. It is not yet worn threadbare, nor can it be. On the contrary, every day that rolls over our heads adds interest to it. The floodgates of emigration seem to have but recently been let loose, and population is pouring in upon us like a torrent. Every section of our Territory is receiving its proportion of this influx; and if nothing intervenes to prevent it, (and what can?) the mind of the veriest visionary in the country will be unequal to the task of comprehending the wealth, population and weight in the political scale, of Iowa, ten years hence. We cannot be deceived in this—conviction is irresistible, and rests upon the mind of every intelligent man who visits the country.

During the last ten days, we have ourselves considerably added to our stock of information, from *personal* observation. *Tired of the noise, and bustle, and hum, of our city*, and having some little spare time on hand, we resolved to avail ourselves of the company of a couple of friends, on a visit to the counties of Muscatine, Louisa and Cedar. We were absent but for a week, but our time was employed to the best possible advantage. High as were our expectations, of the fertility of

our soil, and of its adaptation to all the purposes of agriculture, we are constrained to say, they were surpassed by the reality. We are now able to comprehend the justness and truth of the remark very generally made by those who have seen the whole of it, that the Black Hawk Purchase, take it all in all, is the best body of land in the world. And we verily believe it. There is hardly a foot in the whole Territory, (the organized part of it, we mean) that will not yield a rich reward to the labors of the husbandman. So far as our observations have extended, there is no difference in the *quality* of the soil—it is *all* rich—all prolific in its yield; but much of it is yet unclaimed.—Louisa and Muscatine counties are both covered with fine farms, and have received, it is supposed, since the taking of the census last summer, an accession to their population equal to one third of the whole amount. The people are generally emigrants from the western States—Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois; and *all* are pleased with their change. We made it a point to put this question to all with whom we conversed, and universally received an affirmative answer.

But the part of the country which attracted most of our attention, and with which we were best pleased, is that watered by the Cedar river, and its tributaries. For beauty, it might successfully challenge the world. The soil here, too, if possible, is more abundant in its yield, and the proportions of timber and prairie more equal, than in any other part of the country we have yet seen. The prairies are small and rolling; and the banks of the numerous clear and beautiful streams emptying into the Cedar, as well as of that river itself, are lined with dense bodies of the finest of timber. Part of this country is in Muscatine county, and part in Cedar. This latter county, we are assured, and feel inclined to believe, from what we have ourselves seen, is to Iowa, what she is to the Union, the best county of land in the Territory. It includes sixteen townships, being thirty-six miles square. Its population is supposed to be five or six hundred. Here, then, is the very best part of the country unsettled upon, and unclaimed—subject to be entered at the land office for \$1.25 per acre! Let the denizens of the Atlantic states look at this: let those who, at home, are “hewers of wood and drawers of water,” but know this, and we doubt not but that they will fly to this “asylum for the oppressed of *our own country*.” Here they can acquire half a section of land for \$400, which it requires but little foresight to tell, will, in the course of six or eight years, be worth ten times that amount. Here they can amass an independence, if not for themselves, at least for their children. “Claims,” as they are termed, can be purchased in this county at a very reasonable rate—we, ourselves, have heard of many which can be had for less than the improvements actually cost, because of the inability of those owning them, to pay the entrance money. We know of a claim to a half section of land of the first quality, immediately on the banks of the Cedar, eight or ten miles from Bloomington, on the Mississippi, the improvements on which actually cost upwards of \$700, which can be had for \$500.

These things, which have come under our own personal observation, are mentioned for the information of persons abroad, desirous of moving to the West. The same remarks will apply to every portion of the country—the North and the South, the East and the West. Opportunities, quite as good, occur almost daily, in our own immediate neighborhood, though, from the heaviness of the settlement, and the proximity to a market, claims are held considerably higher. In comparison to the value of the land, however, the prices demanded are a mere song. After the public sales, we predict that those who may acquire the *fee simple* to the land now offered, will ask prices treble and quadruple those for which it can now be had.

In the course of our ride, we passed Wapello and Bloomington, the seats of justice for the counties of Louisa and Muscatine. The former is beautifully situated on the Iowa river, probably twenty miles from its mouth. At present, it does not contain more than fifteen or twenty houses; but should the Iowa ever be made navigable for steam boats, (of which we have very little doubt) Wapello will be a place of some importance. Bloomington is on the Mississippi, about fifty-five or sixty miles above this place. A glance at the map will at once convince the reader that it is advantageously located for purposes of trade. It is on the extreme westerly bend of the Mississippi, and of course considerably farther in the *interior* of the country than any other town. Davenport and Rock Island, though about thirty miles above it, on the river, are only about *six* miles north of it, in a due line; but inasmuch as it must eventually be the trading point on the river for the very extensive and fertile country around it, of which we have already spoken, it has every prospect of going ahead. At all events, it is none of your paper towns, puffed into importance for speculating purposes. Like our own city, it has kept pace with the improvement and settlement of the country, and like us, will, no doubt, continue to do so.

Our "trip to the country," to use the language of *city* editors, has convinced us, more and more, of the superior advantages of Iowa over any other part of the western country. We are content with it. It is good enough for us. The *glimpse* we have had of its future destiny, abundantly atones for all the self-denial we have been compelled to practice, and would reconcile us to much more, if required. Let our citizens think of this—let them view things with a *prospective* eye, and they, too, we feel assured, will not repine.

Fifty years ago, there were but sixty-four white inhabitants in the State of Ohio, and now there are more than one million. Six years ago, and our own delightful Iowa was the hunting ground of the red man of the forest—now we have a population of 30,000 "pale faces." Fifty years hence, and we shall overtake Ohio.

Taking all things [things] into consideration, perhaps this country is not equalled as an agricultural one.

(Continued in next number)

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